Form-107

SPECIAL NARRATIVES

OF THE

DROUGHT IN BENGAL AND BEHAR,

1873-74,

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES BY THE HON'BLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

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CONTENTS

SPECIAL NARRATIVES.

NO.	DATE.	PAGE.
	1873.	
1	November 14th	1
2	„ 15th to 21st	8
3	„ 22nd to 28th	13
4	„ 29th to December 5th	18
5	December 6th to 12th	23
6	„ 13th to 18th	28
7*	„ 19th to 31st	32
	1874.	
8	January 1st to 15th	43
9	„ 16th to 22nd	55
10	„ 23rd to February 4th	63
11	February 5th to 19th	76
12	„ 20th to March 5th	90
13	March 6th to 19th	103
14	„ 20th to April 2nd	120
15	April 3rd to 16th	132
16	„ 16th to 30th	143
17	May 1st to 14th	157
18	„ 15th to 28th	173
19	„ 29th to June 11th	186
20	June 12th to 25th	200
21	„ 26th to July 9th	208

* First fortnightly Narrative

MINUTES BY THE HON'BLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

NO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	PAGE.
	1874.		
1	Jan. 31	On the grain requirements of the Tirhoot District	221
		Note by the Hon'ble Sir George Campbell on the above, dated February 5, 1874	224
		Letter from A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, No. 474, dated February 13, 1874	226
2	Feb. 1	On the organization of Relief Committees in the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-Divisions of the Tirhoot District	227
10	Feb. 5	On the condition of affairs in the Tirhoot District	228
		Memorandum of subjects settled, and instructions given, by the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., in communication with the Commissioner and Collector of Tirhoot, dated February 5, 1874	231
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Patna, No. 563 S. R., dated February 10, 1874	233
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, No. 564 S. R., dated February 9, 1874	234
11	Feb. 5	On the impending scarcity in the Nepaulese Terai Districts	234
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, No. 572 S. R., dated February 10, 1874	235
		Letter from A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 462, dated February 12, 1874	235
12	Feb. 6	(Further Minute) on the condition of affairs in the Tirhoot District	236
13	Feb. 8	On the grain requirements of the Chumparun District	236
15	Feb. 10	On the condition of affairs in the Chumparun District	239
16	Feb. 10	Regarding the supply of cotton and hemp for relief work in the Tirhoot District	242
17	Feb. 10	On additional medical establishments for the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts ...	242
18	Feb. 12	On the grain requirements of the Sarun District	243
		Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 56, dated February 12, 1874	245
19	Feb. 15	On the appointment of a Superintending Engineer for Relief Works in the Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun Districts	245
20	Feb. 15	On the transport arrangements in the Bhaugulpore Division	246
21	Feb. 15	On the deputation of a Veterinary Surgeon with Assistants to the Patna Division	247
		Memorandum on certain important matters for the Ramnuggur Sub-Division ...	247
		Memorandum by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple on the supply of fodder from the North-Western Provinces, dated February 13, 1874	248
		Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 60, dated February 15, 1874 ..	249
22	Feb. 17	On the grain requirements of the Tajpore Sub-Division of the Tirhoot District ...	249
23	Feb. 17	On the establishment of Relief Committees in Durbhanga	250
		Letter from G. H. R. Hart, Esq., on special duty, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department No. 68, dated February 17, 1874	251
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Patna, No. 180 P. S., dated February 5, 1874 ...	251
25	Feb. 19	On the grain requirements of the Bhaugulpore District	251
26	Feb. 19	(Further Minute) on the grain requirements of the Bhaugulpore District ...	255
27	Feb. 19	On relief works in the Bhaugulpore District	255
28	Feb. 19	On the grain requirements of the Purneah District	256
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, No. 1015 S. R., dated February 25, 1874	256
29	Feb. 21	On the condition of affairs in the Madhobunee Sub-Division of the Tirhoot District	257
33	Feb. 25	On the appointment of relief officers in the Tirhoot District	259
34	Feb. 26	On reserve transport carriage for the Patna Division	260
		Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 79, dated Bankipore, February 26, 1874	261
		Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 85, dated February 26, 1874	261
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple, No. 1236 S. R., dated March 4, 1874	261
35	Feb. 26	On the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot District	263
36	Feb. 27	On the distribution of pack bullocks in the Tirhoot District	264
37	Feb. 27	On the cart resources of the Tirhoot District	264
38	Feb. 27	(Further Minute) on the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot District ..	265

NO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	PAGE
	1874.		
39	March 5	On the sale of grain in the Bhaugulpore Division	265
40	March 5	On the sale of grain in the Madhobunee and Durbhanga Sub-Divisions of the Tirhoot District	266
41	March 5	On the rate of wages for relief labor in the Bhaugulpore District	266
42	March 7	On the sale of grain in the Bulrampore and Dengra Thannas of the Purneah District	267
43	March 7	On advances to ryots in the Kishengunge Sub-Division of the Purneah District...	267
44	March 7	On the condition of affairs in the Purneah District	267
45	March 11	On the condition of affairs in the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division	270
46	March 11	On the grain requirements of the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division	272
47	March 14	On the condition of affairs in the Rungpore District of the Rajshahye Division...	273
48	March 16	On the condition of affairs in the Bogra District of the Rajshahye Division ...	277
49	March 16	On advances to ryots for subsistence	279
		Memorandum by E. Lowis, Esq., Magistrate-Collector of Dinagepore	280
50	March 17	(Further Minute) on the condition of affairs in the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division	280
51	March 18	On the condition of affairs in, and grain requirements of, the Maldah District of the Rajshahye Division	283
52	March 18	Statistical summary of the main points regarding the Rajshahye Division ...	285
53	March 20	On the grain requirements of the Rajshahye District	288
54	March 20	On the allotment of grain to the Northern Bengal State Railway	289
		Letter from E. W. Molony, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to L. C. Abbott, Esq., on special duty with the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple, No. 1 Ct., dated March 19, 1874	289
54A	March 20	On the grain requirements of the Godda and Rajmehal Sub-Divisions of the Sonthal Pergunnahs	289
		Letter from G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department, No. 2353, dated March 23, 1874	289
		Letter from E. Baker, Esq., Officiating Deputy Inspector General of Police, on special duty, to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, No. 2, dated March 3, 1874 .	291
		Note by G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, on the Sonthal Pergunnahs, dated March 10, 1874	293
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, No. 1810 S. R., dated March 26, 1874 ..	296
55	March 23	On the organization of a reserve (North-Western Provinces) transport train for North Behar	296
56	March 23	On the augmentation of the subordinate medical establishments	298
57	March 24	On the additional grain requirements of the Tajpore Sub-Division of the Tirhoot District	298
58	March 25	On the organization of a reserve transport train from the Shahabad District ...	298
59	March 25	On deputation allowances to North-Western Provinces' famine relief officers ...	300
		Note by the Hon'ble J. D. Inglis, dated March 23, 1874 .. .	300
60	March 25	On the condition of affairs in the Gya District of the Patna Division ...	300
61	March 26	On the condition of affairs in the Shahabad District of the Patna Division ...	303
62	March 26	On the block of private grain at Patna Station	305
63	March 27	Statistical summary of the main points regarding the Patna Division ...	306
64	March 28	On the condition of affairs in the Monghyr District of the Bhaugulpore Division	312
65	March 28	Statistical summary of the main points regarding the Bhaugulpore Division ...	314
66	March 28	Statistical summary of the main points regarding the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions	318
68	April 4	On the inland carriage of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions in connection with the carrying powers of the East Indian Railway	320
		Letter from G. H. K. Hart, Esq., on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 121, dated March 31, 1874 . ..	322
68A	April 4	On the supply of seed-grain	322
		Circular letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, and to all District Officers in those Divisions, No. 2942 S. R., dated May 6, 1874	324
69	April 6	On the extension of the Chumpta and Durbhanga State Railway	324
70	April 13	Estimate of Famine Expenditure	325
		Appendix I	329
		" II	330
71	April 18	On the Chumpta and Durbhanga Railway	332
72	April 20	On the state of affairs in the Burdwan District	333
		Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Burdwan, No. 15 T. R., dated April 22, 1874	335
73	April 27	On the condition of affairs in the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-Divisions of the Tirhoot District	336
74	May —	On non-official aid in the Mozufferpore Sub-Division of the Tirhoot District ...	339
		Memorandum by E. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, dated April 7, 1874	339
75	May 7	On the working of the temporary telegraph lines	342

No.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	PAGE.
	1874.		
76	May 10	On the grain requirements of, and the organization of relief circles in, the Maunbhoom District	342
77	May 10	On the condition of affairs in the Sarun District	344
78	May 16	On reserve water carriage during the rainy season	346
		Circular letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioners of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore, No. 3185 S.R., dated May 18, 1874	348
79	May 18	Note of points discussed at Monghyr with the Commissioner of Patna ...	349
80	May 18	Comparison of actual facts with original estimates	350
		Memorandum by C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, showing the numbers on the hands of Government or consuming Government grain on May 1, 1874 ...	352
81	May 21	On relief operations in the Durbhanga, Madhobunee, and Seetamurree Sub-Divisions of the Tirhoot District	357
82	May 23	On reserve transport carriage	358
83	May 28	On distress in the Julpigoree District of the Cooch Behar Division	359
84	May 31	On the working of the relief measures in the Hya Ghât Relief Circle ...	360
85	June 1	Review of the state of affairs in the Singheea Relief Circle	361
86	June 1	Notes of a conversation with Baboo Ramakoy Chatterjee, Circle Officer, Singheea	362
87	June 2	Note on the sale of Government grain at Rowsura, authorized by the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple	363
88	June 2	Note on the condition and prospect of affairs in the Hattee Relief Sub-Division	364
89	June 3	Note on the Gunda Relief Circle	366
90	June 3	Note on the Lehra Circle	366
91	June 4	Note on the allotments, expenditure, and stores of Government grain in the relief sub-divisions under the Additional Commissioner of Patna	367
92	June 7	On the maintenance of the reserve transport carriage during the rains ...	368
93	June 7	Memorandum of orders regarding the Sarun District	369
94	July 2	On the services of Colonel MacGregor and the Military Relief Officers engaged under him	370
95	July 2	On the consumption of grain in Tirhoot	371

SPECIAL NARRATIVES

OF THE

DROUGHT IN BENGAL AND BEHAR

1873-74.

No. 1.

NOTE.—The correspondence to which allusion is frequently made in these papers is printed in a separate volume.]

First Special Narrative of the Drought to the 14th November 1873.

During three consecutive years the weather in Bengal has been abnormal. In 1871 the rainfall was excessive—24 inches at Calcutta above the average of previous years. In spite, however, of an excessive rainfall, the crops were very good. It was said in the annual report for the year that "the season 1871-72 was comparatively unfavorable for what are called dry crops; but as rice is the main staple of these provinces, the general result of the season was certainly good."

In 1872, on the other hand, the rainfall was deficient—29 inches at Calcutta below the average of previous years. In spite, however, of this deficiency, the crops were very good in Bengal, and not bad in Behar. Although extraordinarily scanty, the rain was happily distributed both in time and place.

The year 1873 has again been dry, and dry almost beyond precedent. Not only has the rainfall been deficient, but what rain there has been, has been unfortunately distributed. The hilly country south of the Ganges along its whole line has had more than an average fall—indeed, so heavy were the rains at one time in this part of the country, that the early-rains crop was much damaged by excess of rain. Even in Gya and Patna, the early-rains crop suffered heavily from rain and floods, which came at an unfortunate time.

This excessive fall did not extend north of the Ganges. On the contrary, in North Behar and almost the whole of Bengal the rain has been far below the average, the greatest deficiency being in the districts north of the Ganges, both in Bengal and Behar. For instance, the fall of rain from the 1st January to date in parts of the Rajshahye Division and in North Tirhoot, with an average for the same period of 84 and 44 inches respectively, has only been 26 to 30 inches. In Calcutta the fall to date has been 44 inches against an average of 68 inches.

Throughout the country the absence of storms and showers in April and May, and the late commencement of the rains, deferred the preparation of the lands and the sowing and planting-out of the crops till some apprehension was felt regarding the success of those operations. On the 1st July the rainfall from 1st January at the chief centres of Calcutta, Patna, and Dacca, had been, as compared with the average of previous years, as follows:—

	Up to 30th July 1873.	Average of previous years.
Calcutta	11·10	24·80
Patna	4·71	9·86
Dacca	18·65	33·19

The season was abnormally hot. There was registered in Calcutta a higher temperature than had been registered during many previous years.

2. But late seasons are not always bad seasons for the crops; and though complaints of want of a sufficient quantity of rain continued to be made from certain districts, the general aspect of affairs, from the commencement of the rains in the latter end of June up to the middle of September, was on the whole not unpromising. The dryness of the season and the lateness of the sowings formed the subject of demi-official communications between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor. The latter anticipated that if the usual rain fell, no irreparable damage would be done by the singular lateness of the rains. Such seasons had not been uncommon, and, wherever the rains subsequently ran their usual course, had not proved unpropitious. This anticipation was verified by the result to a certain point, for up to the middle or end of September the prospect was not at all gloomy, taking the country as a whole.

3. In the last days of June and the early days of July, the Lieutenant-Governor visited Northern Bengal, travelling by boat down the Teesta and Brahmapootra from Julpigoree to Goalundo. The state of the crops in that part of the country was not during his progress made the subject of complaint until his arrival at Goalundo, where he found everything very backward.

4. But though the general aspect of the crops was not unpromising, the accounts from Behar did not become more favorable till the middle of July; while from Purneah and Dinagepore unfavorable reports continued to be made up to the second week in August.

From Purneah, in the beginning of August, bad accounts were received. The Magistrate reported that the out-turn of the *bhadoi* (or September) crop would be bad, and that unless heavy rain fell within the next three weeks, there would be a failure of the rice crop in the sub-divisions of Arrareah and Kissengunge. He was directed to keep himself thoroughly well informed of the condition of the people of his district, and prepare himself to meet any distress which might arise, if the contingency anticipated of no rain falling within three weeks should actually occur. Rain however came, and the aspect of affairs improved greatly.

5. With the beginning of September came the harvest of the *bhadoi* crops in Behar, chiefly Indian-corn and *murwa* (a small millet); and of the *aus* crop in Bengal, almost entirely rice. Neither of these crops was an entire failure anywhere, and in many districts the out-turn was tolerably good. In parts of Behar injury had been done by heavy rains and floods in the beginning of August; in parts of Bengal scarcity of water affected the out-turn: but in some districts, such as Nuddea, where this crop supplies a large proportion of the food of the people, the out-turn was good; and in North Behar scanty rain seems to have been not altogether unfavorable to the early crop. This early crop is, however, almost everywhere, except in Nuddea, a comparatively small crop. During September the accounts of the late rice known as *aghani* in Behar, *amun* in Bengal, continued favorable. With the last week of September came complaints of want of water from several districts, but such injury was not generally done that the usual October rain would not have remedied.

6. The position then at the end of September was this: the rains had commenced late, and had not been as heavy as usual. The early-rains crop had been below the average on the whole, but by no means a failure. The late-rains crop was late, but on the whole promised fairly: in some districts it promised so very well that the ryots reckoned on a bumper crop, and sold off their old stocks. The rains had ceased for a time—not an unusual occurrence—and the people were looking forward to a full downfall in October. Although experience of former years had taught them that serious scarcity and distress, if not famine, would be the result of a total cessation of the rains, yet they had been so often saved from ruin by falls in October that they were not very apprehensive of disaster. Prices had not as yet risen—indeed, were lower than in the same month of the year preceding.

7. But as the days of October wore on and no rain came, apprehension increased. While anxiously watching the rain and crop reports, the Lieutenant-Governor was loath to give unnecessary alarm. When a considerable portion of October had passed without rain, he became alarmed. He thought the time had come when it was necessary to take more than ordinary precautions to obtain the best information, and ordered a circular which was issued

on the 13th October, and which directed that the crop and price-current returns regularly submitted should be supplemented by further reports giving fuller details of the food supplies of the country.

The following were the specific questions contained in the circular :—

(1.) Whether the district (or tract) is devoted to food-growing crops, and what proportion (if considerable) of its land is taken by any staples other than food?

(2.) Whether it exports or imports food; and if it imports, from where?

(3.) What are the main food staples of the people, and roughly in what proportion they are consumed?

(4.) What are the various rice crops of the district or tract (such as *aus*, or *amun dhan*, &c.); at what season are they reaped, and roughly what proportion of the whole rice produce each crop represents in an average year?

(5.) The estimated out-turn for the present year of each important food crop which has reached or approached maturity (the different rice crops being distinguished)—

(*a*) as compared with an average year (*e. g.*, half or three-quarters, as the case may be),

(*b*) as compared with any previous short year which can be named.

(6.) State and prospects of the ensuing cold-weather food crops, and the degrees to which people may be expected to derive support from them.

(7.) Date, under favorable circumstances, of sowing and reaping of the earliest rice crop of 1874, and the extent to which the cultivation might be increased to meet a pressing demand.

8. On the 16th October, the Lieutenant-Governor demi-officially communicated to the Viceroy his fears that the consequences would be very serious if the rains should not return. He said: "The reports we have from Northern and Central Bengal and the whole of Behar are as bad as they can be; from East, West, and South Bengal, they are bad. There is an area north of the Ganges, comprising most of the Rajshahye Division, Purneah, and North Tirhoot, in which the rain has been extraordinarily short, and in which, I fear, nothing can now save us from great dearness and distress. If the next two or three weeks should pass without good rain, the consequences in these districts would be painful; and I may say the same of all Behar, where the *rubbee*, or cold-weather crop, which is there an important resource, could not in that case be sown. Rain cannot be withheld unless we are really doomed to such a year as only occurs once in a very long period."

At the same time the Board of Agency of the East Indian Railway were requested to keep the local officers through whose jurisdiction their railway passes informed of the movements of grain upon it. It has been ascertained that during the latter half of October very large consignments of rice were sent up by the East Indian Railway from Bengal to Behar; but that on the last two days of October the rice-market of Calcutta became much unsettled: prices rose greatly and fluctuated somewhat, and the upward rice trade is still slack.

9. Meantime the reports from the Commissioners became more alarming. The Commissioner of Patna telegraphed and wrote that there was no rain, nor sign of rain. The Commissioner of Rajshahye reported a panic in the district of Bograh, where rice had risen from 24½ to 12½ seers to the rupee within two days. It fell, however, to 18 seers within two or three days afterwards. The Commissioner of Rajshahye added: "Now I fear rain would do little good, and there is no probability of any further fall."

10. When it became clear that, whether rain fell or not, there would be serious deficiency in the crop, while in the absence of rain the consequences might be still more serious, it seemed that the time had come when the Government of India should be officially warned of the disaster which might be impending. Accordingly, on the 22nd October, the Lieutenant-Governor wrote to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Agricultural and Commercial Department, that "it was now impossible to avoid the gravest apprehensions of general scarcity throughout the country, and worse evils in large parts of it." Of the Patna Division, he wrote: "Not only is much of the rice crops irreparably gone, and much of the remainder almost gone, but the continued drought has given rise to the greatest fear for the cold-weather crops, which are an important staple in the Patna Division. If there is no rain in the next few days, and the *rubbee* sowings do not give immediate employment and hopes for the future, distress and

difficulty of a serious character may be almost immediate in this division." Of Northern Bengal and North-East Behar he wrote: "In parts of this usually moist tract the rainfall has hardly exceeded that which is usual in the driest parts of the North-Western Provinces. It is in this tract that the greatest failure has taken place. Possibly, in the moister and less populous parts even failure may not be so complete and ruinous as further west; but in the west of this tract there may be said to be already a panic." Of Eastern Bengal he said: "It will be a very bad feature in the case if, as is feared, the crops are there so short that the usual exports are impossible." Of the Western Bengal Districts, the Lieutenant-Governor was unable to give any favorable report. Of Orissa and the southern seaboard districts of Bengal only could he entertain good hope of a favorable out-turn. He asked for authority to make immediate arrangements for relief works, and to import grain for the laborers where necessity arose. He also recommended strongly that the export of grain to foreign countries should be prohibited.

11. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor had determined to visit the most threatened divisions and personally confer with the local officers. On his way to Patna, on the 27th October, the Lieutenant-Governor received a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy, to which he replied that he thought things looked as bad as possible. On the receipt of this telegram and of the letter of this Government of the 22nd October above referred to, His Excellency the Viceroy decided to return to Calcutta at once, and telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor at Patna to this effect.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor reached Patna on the 27th September, and there conferred with the Commissioner and local officers and gentlemen of local experience. He had here an opportunity of consulting all the district officers, with the exception of the Magistrate-Collector of Chumparun; Mr. Levinge, the Superintendent of the Soane Irrigation Works; Messrs. Fox and Milne, of the Firm of Messrs. Thomson and Fox, large landholders in the Shahabad District; the Manager and Assistant Manager of the Durbhanga Estate, and European and Native gentlemen from both sides of the Ganges. The result of the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiries are embodied in a note which he recorded on the 29th October. All that could be learned regarding the crops was very unfavorable, as the Lieutenant-Governor said "the general tendency of opinions is very gloomy." But he added this gleam of comfort: "There has been little symptom of panic. Rice in most places has not reached a famine price."

The Lieutenant-Governor recorded his views on the subject of relief works and the importation of grain as follows:—

"The general rule I would follow would be, not to import on the part of Government to supply the general market and to compete with the traders in a part of the country where there are active traders, as is here the case; but to import for relief works, so that relief of this kind should be a relief given by a clear addition to the resources of the affected tract, and not by taking food from one man to give to another. I think that all the local officers should set themselves to devise the means by which food for the purpose I have indicated may be transported to the parts where they see the greatest prospect of a necessity for large relief works. Meantime, although while people are occupied in the attempt to save crops still alive, and there is a possibility of *rubbee* sowings, there will probably be little or no seeking for labor, I much feel the truth of what the Commissioner and several officers have said, that there is much danger that people will keep away from relief works till they are half starved, and I believe we cannot too soon open works sufficient to—

(1) accustom the people to the knowledge that work is available to them,

(2) test the state of the country.

Authority was accordingly at once given to open works wherever it might be needed, the plans having been already prepared, in accordance with previous precaution, under orders issued in June 1872.

The conditions under which, and the objects with which, work was to be undertaken are set forth in the note.

On the whole, the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Bankipore was by no means re-assuring.

13. On the 29th October, the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded to Bhaugulpore, where he met the district officers and such other officers of the division as on short notice could be collected. The result of his inquiries was much the same as that of the Bankipore consultation, as recorded in his note of the 29th; and instructions of a similar import were given verbally, and were afterwards repeated in writing in the letter of the 3rd November, after the Lieutenant-Governor had received the Commissioner's report and suggestions, which that officer prepared after the meeting at Bhaugulpore on the 30th October.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor was unable to prosecute his tour to Moorshedabad as he had at first proposed on account of the return to Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy. But he had an opportunity of conferring with the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan on his way down before the arrival of the Viceroy, whom he accompanied from Burdwan to Calcutta. The instructions given to these Commissioners were in substance the same as those given to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, and were recorded in the note of the 29th. His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, reached Calcutta on Friday, the 31st.

15. While he was at Patna, the Lieutenant-Governor received telegraphic information that the Government of India had sanctioned, by the Resolution of Public Works Department No. 431BC, dated 28th October 1873, the active prosecution of the Soane Canal project and the commencement of work upon the Northern Bengal Railway. He was able to arrange at once with Mr. Lévinge for the authorized extension of the former project, and to telegraph instructions to the engineers charged with the latter. The Resolution above referred to suggested the advisability of reducing the rates of freight on the Bengal railways for the carriage of food grains. It also referred to the Gunduck embankment scheme as one which might now be taken up as a relief work. One of the first things done by His Excellency the Viceroy on his arrival was to arrange for the reduction of the railway rates for food grains to ⅛th pie per maund per mile, the Government recouping to the railway company the difference between the ordinary and special rate. On examining the Gunduck embankment scheme, the Lieutenant-Governor recommended that project, and it has been sanctioned.

In prosecution of the instructions issued to the Commissioners with whom he had conferred, and in pursuance of the authority for the prosecution of public works in the distressed districts, conveyed by the Resolution of the Government of India of 28th October abovementioned, the Lieutenant-Governor, on 3rd November, recorded and circulated a Resolution. It will be seen that these orders convey authority for the fullest extension of public works in the distressed districts as soon as work is wanted by the people—that being the mode of relief which in the present stage of affairs has commended itself to the Governments of India and Bengal.

16. On the 7th November, His Excellency the Viceroy published, in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, a Resolution reviewing the orders which had already been passed in connection with the impending scarcity, and expressing the views of the Government of India on the policy to be adopted in the crisis which had occurred*.

17. Before this Resolution was published, the Lieutenant-Governor had again, in his letter No. 3300, dated November 7th, pressed upon the Government of India his view that all exportation of food grains from at least Bengal ports should be prohibited. The Lieutenant-Governor showed that the annual export from Calcutta of rice alone is 350,000 to 400,000 tons; that as much as 94,000 maunds had been passed for export from Calcutta between the 1st and 7th November 1873; and that the annual export from the ports of Morrellgunge and Chittagong was fully 70,000 tons. Since sending this letter the Lieutenant-Governor has received intimation that 11,000 maunds of rice were exported from Chittagong between the 8th and 11th November, and that the exportable surplus of the Balasore District (about 22,000 tons a year) is being bought up by Madras merchants for export to the Maldive and Laccadive Islands, Ceylon, and the Madras Presidency. While this Narrative was passing through the press, the orders of the Government of India have been received, to the

* Printed in a separate volume.

effect that His Excellency the Viceroy cannot agree to prohibit exportation from Bengal ports, and that he looks to the high prices to check exportation, to bring Burmah rice to Bengal, and in fact practically to stop the export of the commoner sorts of rice.

18. On some points the Lieutenant-Governor felt obliged to solicit more definite instructions than were contained in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November. He wished instructions as to the extent to which he should make preparations for relieving distress possible but not certain. There were elements of uncertainty regarding the future which it was impossible to ignore, and it was necessary to decide whether the worst which might possibly happen should be provided for. In the event of its being decided that the Lieutenant-Governor was to make preparation to meet the worst that might befall, then it was pointed out that he was hardly sufficiently master of the situation to be able to act as it would be necessary to act. He asked to be instructed how far it was desirable that he should at present go in preparation for relief, and how much he might spend in the purchase of food, means of transport, &c. On consideration the Lieutenant-Governor applied for a famine credit of 50 lakhs of rupees (£500,000), against which this Government might draw*.

The reply of His Excellency the Viceroy is not yet in the hands of this Government; but the Government of India has not thought proper to give this Government any famine credit, deeming that the expenditure must in the first instance be debited to provincial funds. As regards preparations for possible relief, the view of His Excellency the Viceroy is that, except in the event of extraordinary local emergency, such preparations should be confined to relief works, and that stores for eventual charitable relief need not yet be made.

19. The Lieutenant-Governor had been in frequent personal communication with His Excellency the Viceroy, and on the 10th November, by His Excellency's desire, he waited on His Excellency at Government House with several of the principal officers of this Government, and a meeting was held at which the various measures to be adopted towards averting impending distress were fully discussed. It is understood that the result of these discussions is about to be communicated to this Government, along with a reply to the letter No. 3379, dated 10th November, mentioned above. Having settled so much, His Excellency the Viceroy left Calcutta on the 12th instant. The further orders which the Lieutenant-Governor has felt authorized to issue are now in course of preparation, and will be detailed in the next weekly Narrative.

20. It will be convenient at this point to review the weather and its effect upon the crops from the middle of October, when the accounts sent to the Lieutenant-Governor were such as to create his serious apprehension.

In the latter part of September and first part of October, up to the 18th, there had been nothing but very partial showers in Bengal, and next to none in Behar. In fact, in Behar in the last half of September there had only been showers in one or two very limited spots, and none at all in October.

Clouds had continually gathered, especially in Bengal, and given hope of rain, but those hopes were as continually disappointed.

When the Lieutenant-Governor wrote in October, a north wind had driven away all prospect of rain, and there was every appearance of the dry cold weather having been set in.

Yet again in the latter part of October and even in the beginning of November, the clouds gave hope of rain, and some showers fell in Bengal. The showers in October were extremely light and partial. On the 3rd and 4th November we had better hopes. From several places reports of rainfall, almost considerable, were received. Though there was no rain in Calcutta, heavy showers fell at several places in the neighbourhood, and it was at one time hoped that the fall might prove to be pretty general.

These hopes were, however, for the most part disappointed. It proved that the showers were everywhere local and partial, and that they did not extend to Behar. Even where the amount of rain was appreciable, the local authorities would not admit that it was enough very materially to benefit the late rice. Still undoubtedly in several parts of the Presidency and Dacca

* Letter No. 3379 of 10th November 1873.

Divisions there was rain of some benefit, and there were also some showers at places in the Burdwan and Rajshahye Divisions. Not more than a few drops fell in the eastern border of Behar.

Even if the showers in various parts of Bengal did not suffice to improve the rice, it is admitted that they may benefit the sowings for the cold-weather crops. On the whole, it may be said that in the last three weeks the prospects in Bengal generally have a little improved; while in Behar and the northernmost part of Bengal there has been nothing to mitigate the drought, and the failure of the hope of rain has so far verified gloomy anticipations.

The latest weekly report of the weather and crops is sent with this Narrative.

21. It is at present not possible to give an accurate estimate of the loss of crops through drought. Some answers to the circular No. 70, dated 13th October, above (paragraph 7) referred to, have been received, but their contents have not yet been sufficiently digested. Suffice it now to say that roughly speaking extreme failure of crops will probably be confined to—

(1) all the districts of the Patna Division,
(2) all the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, except the Sonthal Pergunnahs,
(3) the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bograh, and parts of Rajshahye, Maldah, and Moorshedabad in the Rajshahye Division.

In other districts there will be short crops, but in the districts abovenamed the whole yield of all the food crops of 1873-74 is estimated to be (unless copious rain falls at a very early date) less than three-eighths of the yield of an ordinary average crop, and relief works on a more or less extended scale will be required soon. There are other districts, or parts of districts, where the crop has been short, and where relief works may be eventually required—such, for instance, as the Maunbhoom District, much of the Burdwan Division, and some limited portions of the Presidency Division. But in all these districts it is hoped that the harvests all round will give half an ordinary year's yield. In Dacca, Mymensing, and Tipperah the crop is still reported much below an average, but it is not probable that the agriculturists will be reduced to want. Sylhet, Chittagong, Noakhally, Backergunge, and Orissa have fair average crops, and will as usual have a large exportable surplus, which might be diverted to other districts of Bengal. Already intelligence has been received that Assam, which usually imports, is now exporting rice to Bengal. It may be noted that the population of the tracts (above noted) where the failure of crops will be extreme is about 25 millions.

22. The above is a brief review of the general action taken by the Government of Bengal in face of the impending scarcity of food. Some minor measures remain to be noted. The temporary abolition of all road toll-bars and tolls on ferries which can in dry weather be crossed by a ford or causeway has been ordered; while, where boats must be used the tolls are to be reduced to the lowest tariff which will remunerate the boatmen. Further, the Government has put a steamer and flats to ply on the Ganges from Kooshtea to Rajshahye; has ordered a small light-draught steamer, with flats, to ply on the inland waters of Rajshahye, and has directed the formation of bullock trains on certain traffic routes in Rajshahye for the carriage of railway material and of food grains to depôts. Various minor road works, which it is unnecessary to particularize, have been sanctioned in different districts. On other occasions when parts of Bengal have been afflicted by famine the want of subordinate native establishments, such as exist in other Indian provinces, had been greatly felt. The Lieutenant-Governor had made some attempt to supply this want in his scheme for subordinate establishments lately sanctioned by the Government of India. He now warned local officers that the new establishments should be fully utilized in work connected with the impending scarcity.

23. In regard to the food supply of the distressed districts, His Excellency the Viceroy has laid down the general rule, that Government must trust to the trade and to the improved means of communication for the natural flow of food from other parts of India to make up the deficit in Behar and Northern Bengal. At the same time His Excellency has authorized the Lieutenant-Governor to arrange for supplying and storing food at centres of

relief works where many laborers are likely to be gathered together, and where the local supplies must be insufficient to bear any extra strain. The Government of India is operating in the Burmah and other markets outside India, while the Government of Bengal and its officers are buying some grain and contracting for much more to be stored at centres in the distressed districts for use on relief works. The restrictions on the manner of procuring these supplies are that the grain must be brought from a distance outside the distressed districts, and that Government officers must work through the local traders as far as possible. As yet an expenditure up to almost 23 lakhs of rupees (£230,000) has been sanctioned for this object; but it is expected that Bengal officers will not expend this large sum for some time. The sources of supply are expected to be Backergunge, Sylhet, Chittagong, and Orissa for rice, and Northern and Central India for wheat and other grains. Arrangements for storing these supplies are at once to be made at selected centres near the larger relief works.

No. 2.

Second Special Narrative of the Drought from the 15*th to the* 21*st November* 1873.

The last Narrative gave a brief account of the drought and circumstances connected with it down to the 14th November. The present Narrative continues that account down to the 21st November, and also supplements it with some information which either had not been received, or, if received, had not been prepared for publication on the former date.

There has been no change in the weather. No rain has fallen in the districts where distress is anticipated, nor is there now any prospect of a fall. The cold weather seems to have set in everywhere, and in the ordinary course no rain is to be expected till the latter end of December or the beginning of the year when rain is not unfrequent. This absence of rain has a double effect: *first*, the rice crops continue to wither away; *second*, the sowing of the spring crops is hindered. A copy of the last weekly rain and crop returns is sent with this Narrative, but it is necessary to explain that they are for the most part only brought down to the 15th current (in some cases by telegraph down to the 18th current), while the above remarks describe the weather to date of writing, *viz.*, the 21st November. Speaking however generally, it may be said that the returns for the 15th and 18th apply also up to the 21st November. It will be observed that Orissa, the eastern seaboard districts, and Sylhet are still favorably reported on.

2. Prices have not risen so much as might have been expected. In no district have they yet reached famine rates, though they are of course very much higher than they were at the same time of last year. During the week under report some districts show a rise and some a fall in the price of the commoner food grains. At Patna, rice has risen from 21 seers to 13 seers per rupee as compared with last year, but as compared with last week's return it has fallen from 12 to 13 seers. The price of rice at Calcutta had not up to date of last report risen extravagantly as compared with last year. Today, however, it is necessary to report that a rupee will only buy 12 seers of common rice in the Calcutta market, whereas at the corresponding date of last year it bought over 18 seers. At Dacca, rice is quoted at double its price in ordinary years. It may be noted here that during November 1865 (the last year of great scarcity) prices of common food stuffs stood on the whole higher than they stand today. A return of prices current in the different districts for the week ending November 15th is forwarded.

Up to date of writing no news of any very great general rise or fall has come to hand, but it is right to mention that the reports from the head-quarters of each district may not exactly represent the state of things in the interior and not easily accessible parts. The coarse millet called *murwa* is stated to have been selling in the extreme north of Bhaugulpore at 31 seers, whereas it is quoted at 16½ seers for the district. These prices, however, are sometimes very nominal. A gentleman reports that in an outlying part of Bhaugulpore he could not purchase 10 maunds of rice, while in one day in a certain village market in Purneah, rice, which sold in the morning at 14, rose by the afternoon to 8 seers. The return for Purneah District is 12 seers. A circular was issued on the 15th November, insisting strongly on the importance of submitting careful and

trustworthy returns of prices current during the present crisis. When prices are subject to sudden and violent variations, it is difficult to say what the ruling price is; but all that care and attention can do to eliminate error is being done.

3. Some inquiries have been made into the movement of food grains which have taken place in these provinces during the last few weeks. It cannot be said that the result is very encouraging. It is not such as the rise in prices would lead one to expect. Indeed, in face of the daily consumption of food by the 67 millions of these provinces, the circulation of grain assumes very small proportions. The population of the Patna Division alone would consume on famine allowances 1,50,000 maunds of food grains daily.

4. At paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative were stated the terms in which the Lieutenant-Governor had in October last asked for a special weekly report regarding the condition and prospects of the crops and of the food supply in each district. Replies have now been received from almost every district. One set of these replies is sent herewith, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in paragraph 31 of the Government of India Resolution of the 7th November. With future Narratives it is proposed to send only reports from the distressed districts and any other reports of special interest and importance. But as the replies to circular No. 70 give a view of the prospect of affairs over the whole country, they are submitted for all districts, so far as they have been printed. Replies for the few remaining districts will be submitted with next week's Narrative.

The district reports are very unequal in clearness and fullness: some of them, notably that from Bhaugulpore, are very distinct, while from districts where the sub-divisional system has not yet been fully introduced, the information is imperfect. The estimates offered by the district officers are confessedly rough and imperfect, and do not pretend to arithmetical accuracy. It must be borne in mind moreover that farmers when they speak of "a full average crop" really mean a bumper crop, such as is very seldom harvested; and therefore a three-quarter crop (or twelve-anna crop, as it is called) is in reality a good average yield. In one point most of the replies are more or less incomplete, namely, regarding the comparison between the crops, the prices, and the general outlook of the present year with 1865. The Lieutenant-Governor attaches great importance to this comparison, for according as the prospect of the present year is better or worse than 1865, we shall know whether to expect merely high prices, keen distress, and some starvation among the very poor, or a severe famine affecting a large section of the population.

A note reviewing the district reports upon the prospect of the crops is forwarded herewith. The general result of that review may be summed up as follows:—

Estimated Out-turn of the Food Crops of 1873-74.

In the littoral districts of Orissa and Bengal, including the southern border of the Delta, population 11 millions.	From three-quarters to a full average crop.
In the lowlands of Western Bengal, the sea-board excluded, population 3½ millions.	About one-half of the yield of a full average year.
In the Central Delta Districts, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average year.
In Northern Bengal, population 7 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Eastern Bengal, population 7½ millions.	From one-half to two-thirds of a full average crop, except in Sylhet, where there will be a full crop.
In the up-lands of Bengal and Chota Nagpore, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average crop.
In North Behar, population 11 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In South Behar, population 8 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Assam and the hill districts, population 3½ millions.	Three-quarters of a full average crop.

Thus the districts of the Lower Delta of the Ganges, the littoral districts, and Sylhet (with a population of about 13 millions) are the only parts of the country

where there will be an average crop. Over the greater part of Bengal proper (containing about 28 millions of souls) there will be, it is hoped, from half to three-quarters of a full average crop; while in North Bengal and Behar (containing a population of 26 millions) the yield of the food crops is estimated to be from one-quarter to one-third of full average years. As yet we do not know what the food stocks may be. It may be hoped that Northern Bengal, which is ordinarily an exporting tract, must have considerable stocks from previous years, for we find that in the other exporting districts (Sylhet, Backergunge, and Orissa) considerable old stocks are this year being brought to market. But some of the Behar Districts ordinarily export other produce and import a portion of their food supply, and in such districts we can hardly hope that stocks of food are retained largely either in the hands of dealers or of growers. It would be unavailing to offer any estimate of the number of tons of food which are short, and which will have to be supplied; but so much may be assumed that, if an average food crop would have carried the people of Behar and North Bengal on till next October, and would have left them a small surplus stock, then in the present year, when they have probably less than half of the annual yield, they must either eat very much less, or must supply the deficiency from reserves or from outside. The districts which have one-half the usual crop or more will manage to feed themselves one way or another, though relief works may be required for landless laborers in some parts of them. It is for the Behar and North Bengal tracts that the Lieutenant-Governor is most anxious. Very much, however, in regard to these districts will depend upon the fate of the cold-weather food crops.

No. 2980, dated 12th November 1873, from the Secretary to Government, Financial Department.
No. 3003, dated 13th November 1873, from the Secretary to Government, Financial Department.
Memorandum of Proceedings at a Meeting held at Government House, Calcutta, on the 10th November.

5. In the last Narrative it was mentioned that before the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy from Calcutta, the Lieutenant Governor had again proposed to stop the exportation of food grains to foreign ports from Bengal; had asked for a famine credit of 50 lakhs to begin with, and had solicited more definite instructions as to the extent of the preparations he was to make to meet possible, but not certain, distress. The nature of the answers returned to the Lieutenant-Governor was briefly indicated. Full and specific replies have now come to hand.

6. The general principles and policy to be followed in providing against famine having been settled by the Government of India, it remains to describe how they have been carried out by the Government of Bengal. Many orders in the spirit of those subsequently formulated had already been issued demi-officially and otherwise in anticipation of the issue of official orders. The Lieutenant-Governor had already, on the 11th of November, caused a demi-official letter to be addressed to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, directing them to commence the purchase of grain for use on relief works. They were told that the grain must be purchased from a distance, and that operations must, as far as possible, be carried on through the ordinary traders. They were warned to make preparations for storing their purchases at convenient sites. In order to leave the Calcutta market open, they were told not to purchase in that market, if they could avoid doing so. They were also directed to look up, and where possible take measures to improve, the means of transport, and to prepare to make advances of money in assistance of trade and private landed improvements.

Immediately on receipt of the official orders of the Government of India, definite orders were promulgated in the circular instructions of the 17th November*. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that this circular sets forth clearly and precisely the present policy and action sanctioned by the Government of India. It is begged that reference may be made to this paper for a full exposition of the course now being pursued.

In paragraph 30 of the Resolution of November 7th, the Government of India called attention to the subject of emigration from distressed districts, and since the publication of that Resolution, the Commissioner of British Burmah has telegraphed to say that he can make immediate arrangements for receiving large numbers of emigrants. The Landholders' Association of Calcutta and

* Circular letter No. 80 of 17th November 1873.

others interested have been addressed on the subject of emigration to Assam and Cachar, and have been asked to make any suggestions they can for promoting it on a large scale. Copy of the letter to the Association has been sent to the Commissioner of British Burmah, and he has been asked whether employers of labor in Burmah would contribute to the cost of conveyance of emigrants.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants, to enable them to improve their properties, under Act XXVI of 1871 are under revision, with a view to the relaxation of some of the existing restrictions on borrowing.

7. So far of orders issued. An account has been submitted by the Irrigation Department of measures already taken on the Soane Canal works. It may be well to mention that though the Soane Canals were by no means ready for use as irrigation channels, yet by dint of most strenuous exertions on the part of Mr. Levinge and his officers, water has been let into them—first on the left bank of the Soane, and more recently on the right bank; and 69,000 acres of the thirstiest lands in Behar have been irrigated during the months of October and November, 1873. The water was given gratis, because our appliances were incomplete; the necessity was great, and we had absolutely no means of measuring up and charging water-rent on the irrigated lands. The canal works, new and old, will give plenty of labor to the destitute classes over large areas of the Patna, Gya, and Shahabad Districts. From the Cossye Canals in Midnapore irrigation has begun, and 34,000 acres have been watered; water rents are being charged, but the penal charges against those who take water late in the season have been suspended. Unfortunately as the irrigation was extending, the volume of water in the Cossye diminished greatly; hence only a small portion of the lands on account of which application for water is made can be irrigated. In Cuttack during the dry weeks at the end of September the ryots came to the canal officers clamouring for water; and water for 1,500 additional acres was leased. But a timely downpour of rain came and saved the crops, and nothing more was heard of any demand for increased irrigation facilities.

Major Lindsay has proceeded to Dinagepore to commence operations. A memorandum by him on the Northern Bengal Railway, and the orders thereon, are forwarded.

Extra engineering establishments have already been appointed for famine relief works in Bengal, amounting to a total of 30 executive and 35 subordinate officers. Their destinations have not as yet been all settled, but they will be employed as they arrive on the three great imperial works already sanctioned, and on the provincial works ordered in circular No. 80 of the 17th November, according as their services may be required.

As regards the orders issued for provincial works, the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye have, in accordance with their instructions, been making purchases of grain to feed the laborers where necessity arises. No return has yet been furnished of the amounts purchased. Arrangements have been made by the Lieutenant-Governor for buying in the Calcutta market, through a private firm, about 80,000 maunds of rice for storing in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions. In Orissa three lakhs of maunds, about 11,000 tons, have been contracted for at the favorable rate of Rs. 2-12 per maund delivered in Calcutta during December, January, and February. Consignments from Burmah and Madras, for which the Government of India have arranged, are expected to reach a total of 10,000 tons. For the receipt, unloading, and despatch to the threatened districts of these supplies special arrangements have been made under the superintendence of Mr. G. Toynbee, C.S., who was employed on similar duty in Orissa in 1866-67. Fifty thousand maunds of rice have already been despatched, or are at the date of writing under despatch, from Calcutta to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore and the Superintending Engineer of the Soane Canals, and arrangements have been made for the immediate despatch, to the same destinations and to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, of other consignments as they are received from those who are purchasing on the part of Government. Today, the 20th November, a steamer, carrying about 900 tons of Government rice from Burmah, is reported to have arrived in the Hooghly. If the rice is fit for immediate use, it will be sent for storage at once at relief works in the distressed districts.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival at Goalundo of the steamers and flats ordered up to work on the Ganges and the inland waters of Rajshahye.

It has already been reported that the district and local officers, civil and engineers, are actually making preparations on the spot for the commencement of the relief works. As this Narrative goes to press, demi-official information has been received that work has already commenced upon the Northern Bengal Railway feeders, and upon the district roads in Dinagepore. One thousand men are said to be actually at work.

From the Soopole Sub-Division of Bhaugulpore information has just come to hand that work has commenced under the immediate supervision of the newly appointed Superintendent of Relief Works.

The Manager of the Hutwah Estate commenced making a road as a relief work in October, and finds that at rates somewhat below the market rates his work is eagerly taken up.

Each of the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye has been provided with special assistance on account of work connected with scarcity and relief; while to almost every district an extra officer, exclusive of engineers, has been added to the civil staff.

8. On some few minor points it has been found necessary to issue special orders. There was some reason to doubt the complete accuracy of the rainfall returns of past years filed in the office of the Meteorological Reporter. A circular has accordingly been issued, calling upon all district officers to compare the returns sent to them from the central office with any materials they may have in their own offices, to supply omissions, and to correct errors. In addition to the weekly return of the state and prospects of the cold-weather crops, and the degree to which people might be expected to find support from them, ordered by circular No. 70 of the 13th October, the officers of the Behar Districts have been further desired to submit a special and more particular report on the same points in the first week in December. All district officers have been directed to add to the returns, under circular No. 77, a precise comparison of the present condition of their district, with its condition at the corresponding period of 1865.

The Opium Agent of Behar has been ordered to facilitate the sowing of food crops in lands where it is ascertained that the poppy sowings have failed, and to defer the repayment of the advances made on account of the lands so re-sown till the crops have been gathered. The Lieutenant-Governor has also fully approved the action of the Board of Revenue in giving the Opium Agent of Behar authority to make advances on account of the digging of common unmetalled wells, wherever he thinks it advisable, and has urged further action in this direction. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the digging of such wells should be encouraged to the fullest extent, as, in addition to securing a crop, work will be provided for the laboring population.

9. In paragraph 18 of the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, it was desired that the levy of the road cess might be postponed in any district or portion of a district where the Lieutenant-Governor might consider that the cess payers were in distress. The Lieutenant-Governor has been in correspondence with Mr. Schalch, the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, on the subject of the suspension of the road cess. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that, although high prices may be expected to prevail everywhere, the agriculturists, who may have even a moderate or short crop which has not wholly failed, will have a compensation in these high prices; and till the failure is extreme, they suffer far less than the landless classes. It is therefore very necessary to discriminate between those cases in which an extreme failure has involved all classes in a common distress and a moderate or partial failure in which the laborers and non-agriculturists chiefly suffer, and in which rents are paid without very heavy remissions.

Taking the distressed districts as defined in paragraph 2 of the circular, No. 80, dated 17th November, the Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner of the cess districts in Behar, which are classed as wholly distressed, that if he is satisfied that all hope of a good rubbee crop is so completely gone that it is inevitable that great distress and difficulty will be felt by the body of the cess-paying ryots, he may postpone wholly the collection of the

road cess till the 1st October 1874, and at once notify this to the people at large by every means in his power.

To the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan, the Lieutenant-Governor has said that if in any portions of their road-cess districts, or in any particular estate they believe that the cess-paying ryots are reduced to present distress, and rents are not realized, the cess may be suspended. The Commissioners are to use their discretion so as neither to remit the cess unnecessarily, nor to press the people too much where they are really reduced to distress.

10. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore having telegraphed to officers under the North-West Provinces Government asking them to purchase grain on his account, which they declined to do without special authority, it has been arranged that all orders on the North-West Provinces shall be made through the Commissioner of Patna, and a special officer has been named by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces through whom orders may be executed. The Lieutenant-Governor has laid down in a memorandum distinct rules regarding the purchase of food otherwise than through the local trade.

The Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to take exception to the tone lately adopted by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore. It seemed to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Commissioner took a too strongly colored view of the imminence of famine in the north of the Bhaugulpore District—a view not altogether justified by the reports of his subordinates.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor has received offers of assistance and co-operation from the Maharajah of Burdwan and from Khajeh Ashanoollah in his own name and that of his father, the well-known Khajeh Abdool Gunny, C. S. I., of Dacca. Khajeh Ashanoollah has already commenced to lay in a store of grain with a view to issuing it at cost price should a time of scarcity arrive.

12. The Native Press have taken a very gloomy view of the situation. They are not unanimous as to the time when distress may be expected to commence, but they agree in declaring, as do most of the native gentry, that very small food stocks are now held. They advocate very strongly the stoppage of exportation.

No. 3.

Third Special Narrative of the Drought from the 22nd to the 28th November 1873.

The general prospects of the season, as disclosed in the latest reports, are perhaps a little better than previous reports might have led us to fear. Many of the reports and opinions now given are results of actual inspections by experienced European and Native officials, fully qualified to observe and to weigh what they see; others are still not what they should be. Especially, it may be noted, that the state of the spring corps, which had in many cases more or less germinated where sown, is better than it had been supposed to be, and gives better prospects of their surviving if later rain falls. In the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions the late rice crop, the main staple of the country, is said to be as bad as it had been previously feared to be. It is hoped that if rain comes in December, the spring crop will not be permanently injured by the insects which are said now to infest the wheat fields, for the young plants will shoot up again.

In regard to the stocks of food in the hands of the people, the Commissioner of Patna reports the determination of the ryots of Tirhoot not to sell their grain, consequent on their remembrances of the suffering of 1866. He adds that one of the chief causes of the great distress in 1865-66 was the total depletion of stocks, caused by the ryots being tempted by the high prices to break in on their stores of grain. In Orissa it is believed that since the famine of 1866 the people have been much more provident, and that they have now good stocks.

A note by the Lieutenant-Governor is forwarded, comparing the prospects of the present year, as far as they are known, with the condition of affairs in 1865, and previous to the great famine of 1770*.

* Note by the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 25th November 1873.

2. There has been no rain. The following note by the Meteorological Reporter shows that the weather is not altogether such as is usual at this time of year: "During the past week (and indeed since the rains ceased) the general direction of the wind has been more or less easterly. This is not usual in November. The average direction in this month is NNW., that of the land wind; whereas north-easterly winds, such as we have had of late, are in great measure diverted winds from the south. As a consequence, there has been more cloud about the sky than is usual at this time of year, and during the last day or two the sky is quite overcast, looking more like rain than has been the case for many weeks past. There has been a very small rise in the barometer the last two days, but in Calcutta rain falls with a barometer rising after its depression." Rain at this time of year would be unusual, but as long as other meteorological phenomena remain anomalous, we may perhaps still hope for anomalous rain. The weekly weather and crops return is enclosed.

3. From the weekly return of prices current enclosed herewith, it will be seen that, though in some districts they have fallen, generally there is an upward tendency. The new rice will soon be in the market. Two districts, Bancoorah and Midnapore, already quote new rice at a lower figure than old rice.

These quotations can hardly be considered to afford very stable hope, for in 1865-66 prices fell during the winter months and rose again after February. The lowest rate for the commonest kind of rice is today in Calcutta Rs. 3-7 per maund.

A short note showing the movement of food grains since the date of last Narrative is enclosed.

4. The difficulty of transporting large quantities of grain in this country being apparent, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to urge upon the Government of India the necessity of now laying in such stores as are likely to be required for relief works before pressure arises and while means of transport are available. Such importations of grain as can be obtained he would, as far as possible, make now. If all our supplies should come together, he anticipates a ruinous block. In letter No. 28PS, dated 22nd November, the Lieutenant-Governor submitted this and some other points for the consideration of the Government of India.

In view of the great need for testing and using, at as early a date as possible, the means of transport from railway stations and rivers into the interior of the distressed districts, the Lieutenant-Governor has despatched from Calcutta to Patna Ghât for the Gunduck embankment—to Rajmehal, Kooshtea, and Goalundo for the Northern Bengal Railway works, and to Arrah and Buxar for the Soane Canal works, all the foreign rice which has come to Calcutta on Government account; and he has, as above mentioned, urged that further importations of grain from beyond the sea should be hastened.

As it was the wish of the Government of India that rice bought by the Imperial Government should, for the present at any rate, be stored at imperial works, the Lieutenant-Governor was very desirous to buy a certain amount of grain in Bengal for storage on local works. Immediately on receiving His Excellency the Viceroy's final orders, Sir George Campbell began to buy rice as quietly as possible through an agent in Calcutta, and he also caused inquiries to be made in Dacca, in the Backergunge District, and at Chittagong, where prices were at that time (early in November) said to be low. The agents employed in Calcutta and Bengal assured the Lieutenant-Governor that, in the then delicate state of the market, it would not be possible for Government to buy largely without raising the price greatly and to some extent paralysing private trade. From Dacca and Backergunge advices were received that the surplus stocks of last year's rice were finding their way to Calcutta and elsewhere, that it would be possible to buy only in driblets, and that there was no mart at which Government could secure a large quantity of grain at one time.

From Chittagong it was reported that rice for export came into market with the high tides once a fortnight only from Noakhally and Backergunge, that there was little or no exportable surplus in Chittagong itself, and that large orders for rice could be executed only by European firms, which held large orders for export beyond the sea at high prices, and would sell to Government only at those prices. For a small parcel of rice (only 1,300 maunds) which was

loaded on the Government steamers transferred for service in the Rajshahye Division, Government had to pay three rupees a maund, or very nearly the rate then ruling in Calcutta. The chief European exporting firm themselves stated that they had deliberately run up the price a rupee a maund at the last fortnightly arrival of rice-boats with the view of attracting boats from the rice districts. The Lieutenant-Governor felt that, as Chittagong was after all only a back-door for the export of Bengal rice, he had better not buy there for Government, and thus attract to Chittagong the surplus of Noakhally and Backergunge, most of which might, under ordinary circumstances, be attracted by the Calcutta prices, and would be carried along the canals and inland rivers to the Calcutta market. The officer charged with buying rice for Government at Goalundo and Kooshtea reported that there were no large stocks to be bought anywhere, but that a healthy private trade was going on between East Bengal and Rajshahye in small boats, from which rice was eagerly bought by the residents along the rivers. He earnestly represented that if Government were to intervene as a large purchaser, this trade would be paralysed. It thus seemed clear that Government could not buy rice largely in the interior of Bengal without disturbing the natural flow of the trade, and keeping it away from Calcutta dealers who would supply the distressed districts. The Government agent in Calcutta had, for similar reasons, exercised similar caution, and had, up to the 24th November, bought only 30,000 maunds of rice for Government in Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, saw that it was absolutely necessary to get a certain quantity of rice in Calcutta for immediate despatch to local works, and he has therefore during the last week bought 1,40,000 maunds more of Bengal rice in Calcutta at the current rates: more than half this quantity has been despatched, or is now under despatch, for storage on local works in all these distressed divisions, and the remainder the Lieutenant-Governor is keeping in reserve for compliance with future emergent indents from the distressed districts. Sir George Campbell hopes that this supply will keep the transport agency at work until the Orissa * rice comes into Calcutta, and the grain ordered from the North-West Provinces comes into the Behar Districts. We have been advised that the first despatch of Balasore rice will reach Calcutta before the 7th December.

In regard to the price at which rice has been laid in, it may be noted that the rice bought in Calcutta will stand the Government in from Rs. 3-3 to Rs. 3-15 per maund; that the Orissa rice will be delivered at the jetties in Calcutta at Rs. 2-12 per maund; that the Burmah rice will cost from Rs. 2-11 for the first batch to Rs. 3-2½ for the later batches. The rice, wheat, maize, barley, millet, and other grains, of which about 1,25,000 † maunds have been ordered, mainly from Northern India, for delivery in Behar, will stand the Government in from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a maund all round at the railway and river stations in Patna and Behar. It may thus be roughly stated that up to the present date (28th November) about six lakhs of maunds ‡ of grain have been bought or ordered by the Government of Bengal and its officers; that three-quarters of this amount will be delivered in the distressed districts before the end of December, and that this grain will cost the Government about Rs. 3¼ per maund all round.

5. In letter No. 3004, dated the 14th November 1873, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department, attention was called to the subject of providing fodder for cattle during the months of scarcity. On the routes where it is expected bullock-trains may be organized, the local officers are to form depôts of fodder.

It is well known that roots and vegetables form an important food staple in this country, and in times of scarcity they in some measure supplement the failure of grain. Local officers have been directed to promote vegetable cultivation, and where advisable, to buy seeds for distribution.

In letter No. 3249, dated November 24th, the Government of India asked for information regarding the plan devised by the Government of Bengal for the distribution of rice imported from beyond sea, and the places where it is

* *See* paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative.

† Thirty thousand maunds of Indian-corn have been ordered by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore from the North-West Provinces; 30,000 maunds of barley, 30,000 maunds of millet, &c., from the North-West Provinces, and 25,000 maunds of rice by the Commissioner of Patna; and 10,000 maunds of rice from Backergunge by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

‡ About twenty-two thousand tons.

proposed to store it in readiness for actual consumption. In reply, the Lieutenant-Governor detailed the arrangements which had been made for transporting foreign rice for storage at the Gunduck embankment and on the Northern Bengal Railway works, and also what had been done in connection with the supply of the Soane Canal works and local relief works *. Particular attention is requested to this letter, as it contains information which is necessary to complete this Narrative.

6. The orders already issued, calling for information and reports from local officers, being contained in many different circulars, some original, some supplementary, it has been thought advisable to circulate a precise list of them. Accordingly, circular No. 87, dated November 24th, has been issued, reviewing previous orders, and defining exactly what reports are required from local officers, reducing them to the lowest possible limits, and requiring a fortnightly instead of a weekly narrative.

In circular No. 80, dated November 17th, paragraph 7, it was stated that the answers received to circular No. 27 of June 1872, which called for lists of works which might suitably be undertaken in times of scarcity, would be printed and circulated, so that divisional and district officers might have by them lists of the roads and other works which have been selected, estimated for, and kept as possible relief works. Copies of these lists have now been circulated to officers of distressed districts, in order that they may know not only what is proposed in their own districts, but also what is proposed in neighbouring districts. In circulating these lists the Lieutenant-Governor made certain remarks, which are contained in letter No. 3569, dated November 22nd.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants, to enable them to improve their properties, under Act XXVI of 1871 have been revised. The chief points in which restrictions have been relaxed, are these—

I.—Certain preliminary formalities which cause delay, &c., are dispensed with.

II.—Stamp and process fees are no longer required.

III.—Sub-divisional officers who were not before allowed to make advances can now do so up to a limit of Rs. 250 in each case; and the Collector's limit has been raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000.

IV.—No interest is charged for advances under Rs. 500 during the first year.

In the case of loans to municipalities, the rules under Act XXIV of 1871 have also been revised, and the Government may now authorize a loan and the commencement of work, and may advance money in anticipation of the formal publication of the application as required by the standing rules.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Opium Agent of Behar had received authority to make advances for the construction of common unmetalled wells. The Lieutenant-Governor has wished to extend the operation of this order to ryots who have not agreements to cultivate opium; and has authorized the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore to make advances for wells outside the provisions of Act XXVI of 1871, and to employ the officers of the Opium Department in making the necessary arrangements.

The Commissioner of Burmah has made a definite offer to employ 6,000 men on public works for six months, intimating that on the expiry of that period he can give the emigrants land to settle upon, and that he will also contribute something towards the cost of their transport. The Commissioner of Patna has been addressed on the subject of emigration to British Burmah, and has been asked whether the people would go, and how he would propose to organize such emigration.

As regards emigration to Assam, it has been pointed out that coolies cannot be expected to find their own way up the Brahmapootra River—the navigation of which is so difficult for native boats. It is therefore under consideration whether it would not be possible to place a Government steamer on the river to carry emigrants from Dhoobree, where the system of roads devised to promote emigration from North Behar to Assam abuts on the Brahmapootra. The Commissioner of Patna has issued orders that grain shall be supplied to emigrants on the line of march at cost price by the officers employed in the construction of

* Letter No. 3626, dated 25th November 1873.

the roads from the stores placed at their disposal for relief works. These orders had become necessary, as it was ascertained that laborers who had started from the Sarun District on their annual migration in search of work to Northern Bengal had returned to their homes alarmed at the high cost of living on the road. Every facility will be given for emigration from Northern Behar through Northern Bengal to Assam. Offers for coolies have already been received from planters.

It was mentioned in a former Narrative that the rates of freight charged for food grains on the railways had been reduced to $\frac{1}{8}$th of a pie per maund per mile. It has now been found necessary to exclude all food grains from the Upper Provinces and Behar, consigned to stations below Luckeeserai and Bhaugulpore, from the operation of the reduction, inasmuch as advantage was taken of it by exporters and others to carry grain away from the districts in which it is most wanted.

In a Resolution, dated 27th November, the Lieutenant-Governor prescribes the procedure to be followed in applying for, and prosecuting relief works.

7. Various circular orders have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor since the date of the last Narrative. As it is very important to obtain as accurate information as is available regarding the extent of food stocks still remaining in the country, he has directed district officers to make special inquiries as to the stocks held both by grain dealers and by individual ryots, and to submit the information they may procure with their weekly narratives.

In order to supplement the ordinary establishments, the Lieutenant-Governor has invited pensioners to resume work during the present emergency, receiving extra allowances proportioned to the work that may be allotted to them.

It has been found necessary to issue some further instructions as to the nature of the information regarding the cold-weather crop which is to be submitted with the district narratives. Local officers have been reminded that the cold-weather crops in their early stages possess a wonderful vitality, and if they germinate in the least, can well wait for rain at Christmas or later.

Inquiries have been made as to the time occupied by native boats in navigating the Ganges from Goalundo to Patna at various times of the year, and the facilities for, or difficulties in, navigation; and the Commissioners of the distressed tracts have been ordered to report specially on the means of transport available in their divisions.

8. Some reports have been received from the Commissioners since the date of the last Narrative. The scheme for connecting Northern Behar with Assam by a system of roads through Northern Bengal has, so far as the Patna Division is concerned, been finally settled. The works have not actually been commenced on this scheme, but the lines have been pegged out and all arrangements for beginning have been made. From another report submitted by the Commissioner of Patna, it appears that, with the exception of the case of the Hutwah Estate, in the Sarun District, mentioned in a former Narrative, relief works have already become necessary only in one corner of the Patna District where a new road has been commenced. With these two exceptions, no relief works, properly so-called, have as yet been opened in the Patna Division, but the annual repairs to the district roads are being pushed on. It is satisfactory that the Commissioner is able to report that as yet no symptom of increase of crimes has shown itself.

A few other points are worthy of note in connection with the Patna Division. It was ordered that local officers should, where possible, effect the purchase of grain for relief works through local traders. It has been found impossible to persuade the grain-dealers of Behar to undertake any import business. Even the large dealers of Revelgunge on the Gogra declare that they cannot take up an import trade from the North-West Provinces: it is not their custom, and they do not understand it. The attempt to import grain through local dealers may be said to have so far failed.

Some collectors have complained of requisitions for carriage for troops being made at a time of so much pressure. The matter has been separately reported to the Government of India.

It is reported from the Behar Sub-Division of the Patna District that the petty grain-dealers in the small villages have shut up their shops, and that people who want to buy have to go to the town of Behar to do so. This difficulty has been in some measure overcome by itinerant dealers, who have taken to perambulating the country with loaded bullocks with imported grain, selling their grain from the sack's mouth.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has submitted his proposals for relief works with a list of roads, on some of which work has actually commenced, while others are kept in hand till necessity for opening them shall arise. He has also chosen places as food depôts and possible relief centres. His plans have been provisionally sanctioned. It was noted in the last Narrative that work had been commenced in the Soopool Sub-Division of Bhaugulpore: the unsatisfactory intelligence has since been received that laborers do not come forward freely. In Monghyr one road has been started as a relief work, and the people have taken the work up willingly, though not in large numbers.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore also has failed in his efforts to purchase food through local traders.

It was mentioned in the last Narrative that works had been opened in the Rajshahye Division. Some details of works in progress in Dinagepore and Rajshahye have since been received demi-officially. On the subject of purchasing grain through local traders, the Commissioner of Rajshahye remarks: "I must say from all I have been able to learn, the people who trade for export will not take up an import trade, and few have the capital to do so. They say it is not their custom, that they do not understand the business, or know the markets."

The steamer *Teesta* is waiting at Kooshtea for her flats, which have left Calcutta and are being towed round by the steamer *Sir William Peel:* the steamer *Flame*, with the flats loaded with rice which she brought from Chittagong, has left Goalundo for the Oorasagur River.

9. The India General Steam Navigation Company having offered their flotilla for the purpose of promoting trade in grain, and having asked Government to bear half the cost of transport, as it does in the case of guaranteed railways, the Lieutenant-Governor has asked for particulars regarding the routes the steamers would take, and the rates of freight the company would charge.

It has been arranged to lay down at once a line of telegraph to Julpigoree from Kooshtea along the line chosen for the Northern Bengal Railway.

10. The British Indian Association have addressed the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the impending scarcity. The Association is inclined to take a somewhat gloomy view of the prospect before us, and suggest various measures which it hopes the Government will take in hand. It does not say what measures it intends to take itself as representing the landholders of Bengal; nor does it suggest what measures should be taken by landholders generally for the relief of their tenants. It strongly advocates the prevention of the export of grain. The Lieutenant-Governor's reply is forwarded.

No. 4.

Fourth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 29th November to the 5th December 1873.

The prospects of the late rice crop have not perceptibly changed since the date of the last Narrative. In the districts previously described as distressed districts there is no improvement: in other districts where the harvest has commenced the actual out-turn has been found to be rather better than was anticipated. This is the case in the Burdwan Division. So in Dacca, Furreedpore, Pubna and Tipperah the out-turn is somewhat better than the local officers estimated, though not perhaps better than the forecast given in the Narrative for the week ending November 21st. The prospect of the spring crop is perhaps, on the whole, rather better this week. In the Behar Divisions the area sown on is not so much less than usual as was at one time stated: sowing is said to be still going on in places; the crop has, contrary to expectation,

germinated fairly well for the most part; what is above ground is looking healthy; and though the cloudy weather has brought insects, which are reported to be doing damage, with rain a fair out-turn may be looked for. In Bengal no great improvement in cold-weather crops can be reported. It is perhaps satisfactory that the prospect is not worse than it was a week ago. But in Bengal, as has been before remarked, the spring crop is not a very important item in the food supply of the people. The weekly returns of rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops up to November 29th are herewith enclosed.

2. Cloud has been the chief characteristic of the weather since last Narrative. On one or two days very slight showers fell, but so slight as to be inappreciable. The Meteorological Reporter says: "The weather remains cloudy and promises rain, but as yet none has fallen in Calcutta beyond 0·13 inch on the 28th and 29th November. The barometer fluctuates but little, and the mean pressure is about the average of this time of year. The winds remain light and easterly below, while sheets of cloud drift up from the south-west. There is still no sign of the land wind from the north-west, the regular wind of the season." Since this was written there has, however, come on a strong and cold north wind. Cloud without rain is by no means conducive to the advantage of the agriculturist at this season. It breeds insects and blight in both the late rice and spring crops. It will be observed from the weather and rainfall returns, enclosed herewith, that the very slight rain referred to by the Meteorological Reporter was confined to a few places, and was always so small as to have no appreciable effect.

3. Although the new rice is now beginning to come into market, prices have not fallen, either greatly or generally, since last week. They cannot now be said to be lower than they were at the same time in 1865. In the distressed districts they are, if anything, rather higher; in other districts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower. The Calcutta market is undoubtedly easier than it was last week: the commonest sort of rice, which was quoted last week at Rs. 3-6 to Rs. 3-9, being now obtainable at Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8; but this may perhaps be due in some degree to the withdrawal of Government from the market. The weekly return of prices current of food grains is enclosed. A note on the movement of food grains during the week is also submitted.

4. In paragraph 4 of the last Narrative reference was made to a correspondence with the Government of India, in which the Lieutenant-Governor had urged the necessity of pressing forward at once the importation of food. In reply, the Government of India, while considering the supply of food provided to be sufficient for the moment, requested that an estimate of the probable quantity of grain required for local purposes, as duly authorized, might be submitted; and accordingly, in letter No. 46 P S, dated December 2nd, the Lieutenant-Governor has laid before the Government of India a statement of the grain that has been bought or ordered: of the amount he still hopes to secure before the end of January; and of the amount he would ask the Government of India to procure from beyond the sea so as to be delivered before the same date. This preliminary statement of our immediate requirements shows that in Sir George Campbell's opinion we ought to have 18,75,000 maunds * of Government grain in Bengal before the end of January next; that with that amount we may hope to feed for the first three months the people likely to come on our relief works or into our relief houses; that before the end of January, and before the proposed supply shall have been exhausted, we shall be able to tell what is the promise of the spring crops, and how far the chances are increased or diminished that we shall have to combat a severe famine over a large area.

Meanwhile, since the despatch of the last Narrative, Sir George Campbell has bought no more grain in Calcutta in addition to the 6,00,000 maunds therein stated to have been bought or ordered. As then explained, the state of the Calcutta market is so delicate that any Government operations thereon paralyse private trade. Barely 40,000 † maunds more have been ordered by local officers. The Lieutenant-Governor is hoping to arrange for the purchase of some

* About 70,000 tons.

† 20,000 maunds are under despatch from Delhi to the Bhaugulpore Division, and the rest is being bought from Eastern Bengal by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

4,00,000 maunds additional. He would especially like to obtain some of the cheaper grains (especially jowaree) which have just come into the market from the North-West Provinces. But the arrangement is not yet concluded: there is some doubt about the procedure through which this Government is, according to the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy, bound to operate in making purchases in the North-West Provinces, and the officer nominated by that Government has not felt able to execute the orders of the officers of this Government in the form in which they were put.

The Government grain which has reached Calcutta up to date has been pushed forward to railway and river-side stations in the distressed districts. Up to the evening of Thursday (the 4th December) 38,186 maunds of Burmah rice, and 84,134 maunds of Indian rice, have been despatched to the interior. The steamer *Dacca*, with 9,000 bags of rice from Burmah, is now in the river. About 84,000 maunds of the Indian rice, bought in Calcutta, is either under delivery or else is stored in Calcutta warehouses as a reserve for despatch to districts whence emergent indents may be forthcoming. The first instalments of the Orissa rice, bought by the Government of Bengal, have arrived: three native sloops, carrying about 5,000 maunds of Balasore grain, have come into the Hooghly, and four more sloops have left Orissa. The Chittagong rice, bought by the Commissioner of Patna, has come into Calcutta, and is being despatched up the East Indian Railway. The first despatch of barley and other grains, bought by the Commissioner of Patna, from the North-West Provinces has arrived at railway stations in Behar. Some of the grain ordered by the Court of Wards for its works has already reached Durbhanga, while much more is on its way to Durbhanga and Hutwa, large estates in the districts of Tirhoot and Sarun.

5. The work of transporting the grain into the interior from the railway and river-side stations has already begun, and the Lieutenant-Governor has much pressed on his officers that this should be carried out without delay. Places for storage have been selected, and warehouses are being built on the Soane Canal works, at two places on the Gunduck embankment, and in most of the distressed districts of the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions. Though the sites for store-houses (golahs) have for the most part been selected, still no new store-houses are actually yet finished*, but several have been rented. Some stores will be filled before others, and so there would be no object in submitting to the Government of India a bare list of places which have been selected for store-houses until proceedings have got a little further.

For the Patna Division the Commissioner has as yet only indicated the works on which he would establish store-houses. He has indicated also the routes by which grain is to be taken to each tract, and he has actually despatched grain by boats and by carts to three different tracts where he expects distress to occur soonest. The Commissioner of Patna (Mr. Bayley) is at the time of writing travelling from district to district of North Behar, and is arranging the storage places and means of transport with the district officers. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has gone further, and has submitted maps showing for each district the relief works to be undertaken in the first instance, those to be held in reserve, the sites for store-houses and probable relief centres in each district; and a subsequent report has explained that, to begin with, grain will be despatched to and stored in the more important store-houses near which relief works are likely to be soonest wanted. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has already sent several thousand maunds of grain across the Ganges from the railway, and has despatched the whole on carts to places in the north of Bhaugulpore and Purneah. He has also despatched smaller quantities on carts from the Luckeeserai Station to places in the poorer tracts to the south-west of Monghyr.

From the Rajshahye Division we have very complete reports regarding the sites chosen for storage of grain on the Northern Bengal Railway works, on feeder roads, and on the North Ganges emigration roads. A list of these storage places is given, with the amounts to be stored at each and

* The great-domed granary built at Patna after the famine of the last century, occasional store-houses at P. W. stations, at excise distilleries, at studs, at the *ganja* store-houses in Rajshahye, and other Government establishments are being used wherever they exist, and at places like the Patna river-side station, storage room has been rented, but for the most part temporary storage houses have to be built, and are being built.

the routes selected for reaching the stores. The Commissioner (Mr. Molony) reports that if distress deepens, the number of store-houses may have to be increased, and the number of maunds to be stored must be larger; he notes also that he will have to select some storage places in Rungpore. But for the present the Relief Commissioner and the district officers have in the Rajshahye Division to work up to the lines laid down by Mr. Molony, and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.

6. In connection with the Burmah rice a serious practical difficulty has arisen, from the fact that all Burmah rice is packed in bags containing over two hundredweight. The coolies who unload the steamers and load the railway trucks, as well as the coolies at Goalundo and Kooshtea, have found great difficulty in loading and unloading these bags. The local officers have represented that transhipment and transport of these heavy bags into small carts and small boats in the interior will be very difficult. When the first consignment of large bags came, the Lieutenant-Governor represented that they could not be carried on pack bullocks. As it appears that smaller bags cannot be had in Burmah, the Rangoon authorities have been asked, through the Government of India, to pack only two maunds in each bag, however big. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor is having one-maund bags made at all the jail factories for the purpose of packing any rice that may have to be rebagged.

Over 5,000 bags (about 14,000 maunds) of Burmah rice, which came by the steamer *Arabia*, held what is called "cargo rice," that is, about one grain out of every five has the husk on it, while the remaining four are almost fully husked. As the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to send rice into the interior as quickly as possible, the consignment has been despatched to the works in Behar. Meanwhile, a few bags have been kept, and experiment is being made as to the best way of preparing the rice for consumption. It will probably be found that coolies and their families will be able to prepare the cargo rice for food easily enough.

7. At paragraph 6 of the Second Narrative and at paragraph 6 of the Third Narrative mention was made of the fortnightly reports which officers of distressed districts are to submit to Government; and in the Second Narrative were given the heads on which such reports were to touch. The report from six districts (bringing the history of affairs down to the 1st December) have been received: one of the reports (an excellent one from Bhaugulpore) has been printed in time to go with the present Narrative, and is sent as a specimen. This report shows very fully what is being done in this and other districts; copies of other similar reports will be submitted with next week's Narrative. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to acknowledge that the local officers are actively and intelligently giving effect to the orders of Government. The district reports just received show that the civil officers are most carefully watching the condition of the people; that they are preparing, or have prepared, relief works in the worst tracts; that they have prepared some store-houses for Government grain and are preparing work, and that they are forwarding to the interior all the Government grain which has yet reached them without any hitch or hindrance so far.

8. The letter from the British Indian Association, to which reference was made in paragraph 10 of the last Narrative, contained a statement that the Government would have upon its hands the task of feeding 60 millions of people. At the request of the Government of India, the Association has been asked to give the materials on which its statement is based.

The offer of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah to contribute Rs. 5 a head towards the expenses of conveying emigrants to that province has been considered by the Lieutenant-Governor. It is found that it would cost much more than Rs. 5 to convey each emigrant from the distressed districts only as far as Calcutta, and the Government of India have been informed that in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor the proposal made by the Chief Commissioner is wholly inadequate. It has been proposed to put on a Government vessel to ply between Calcutta and Rangoon, taking down emigrants if they should offer, and returning with rice. Letter No. 3649, dated 26th November, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department, refers to this subject.

8956

9. Of the Soane Canal works, we learn that the establishment for the new branches have now nearly all joined, the land is being taken up, and the store-houses for grain have been commenced. Upwards of 8,300 men are at work on the head works at Dehree, and 5,400 on the Arrah Canal. From the western main canal 463 villages, aggregating 261 square miles, have received water: it is estimated that the area actually irrigated is 104,000 acres. It was before reported that water was let into the eastern main canal on the 15th November. Entering in a volume of 300 cubic feet a second, it speedily filled the eight miles of canal already excavated, and passing from the canal into an old water-course, twelve miles in length, which has served as an excellent distributary, it eventually flows off into the Poonpoon River. It was admitted into the canal too late to be of much use for irrigation purposes at the upper end, but there is some prospect of the water thrown into the Poonpoon coming in useful for the cold-weather crops.

Of the Gunduck embankment scheme, it is reported that most of the officers detailed for the work have been sent up to commence operations.

Of the Kana Nuddee in the Hooghly District, we learn that three-fourths of the work have already been completed. Some 1,395 men have been daily employed on this work during the last fortnight, and it is expected that water will pass through the cutting on the 10th instant. The opening of this channel will, the Collector anticipates, save about 100,000 acres of root and spring crops.

Of the Northern Bengal Railway, Major Lindsay reports that his stores are on the way up by rail to Rajmehal, and that he is organizing a bullock train for their conveyance into the interior. He says that the earthwork on this line will probably give employment to 100,000 people, if that number were to come on the works.

10. The reports which have reached Government regarding the actual commencement of relief works, and regarding the number of laborers on these works, are not complete; but neither on the canal works, nor on the local works in the south of the Patna Division, has there been as yet any large influx of laborers belonging to agricultural classes. The Commissioner, who was on tour in North Behar, wrote, under date the 1st December, that the works in Tirhoot were attracting none but the usual laboring classes. It has been stated in demi-official letters that distress is already apparent in Chumparun and Sarun; but until particulars are received, the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to say what form the distress has taken. The Manager of the Hutwa Estate has today brought word that 15,000 people (men, women, and children) are employed on the district and local works in Sarun. About one-third of these are employed on the Hutwa Estate at rates of wages averaging 1¼ anna per diem per head; but a considerable proportion are people who would be employed on district works at this season in ordinary years. From all sides it is reported that harvesting of what rice there may be, as well as rubbee sowings, is going on, and that in consequence labor does not largely come to the works. From the Bhaugulpore Division official accounts have not yet been received of the number of persons on works in the several districts; but the Bhaugulpore fortnightly report speaks of 1,000 work-people being employed on one set of roads in the north of the district; and a demi-official letter speaks of about 7,000 people being on the road works in Monghyr, south of the Ganges alone. In the Rajshahye Division work-people are said to be coming to roads in the Dinagepore District, in the north of Rajshahye, and in Maldah; and it is stated that the ryots of the highland, known as the Burrind in Rajshahye, are coming on the works, but as yet the information on this point is imperfect.

11. During the week under report the Lieutenant-Governor has issued, in the Public Works Department, full instructions for the guidance of officers engaged in relief works.

12. It has been recorded in a former Narrative that the Government had entered into contracts for the supply of rice from Orissa, the price agreed upon being for delivery in Calcutta. The British India Steam Navigation Company having largely raised their rates of freight, the contractors have represented that they will have difficulty in fulfilling their engagements, and have suggested that Government should put a steamer on the line to take freight at the old rates. The Lieutenant-Governor has represented the matter to the Company's

agents in Calcutta, and, if necessary, he will address the Government of India more specifically upon the subject.

13. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore asked for a further immediate provision of 1,50,000 maunds of grain in addition to the 1,50,000 maunds already allowed to him: the Lieutenant-Governor declined for the present to grant a further credit until he has received more precise information regarding the distribution of the rice already arranged for. The same Commissioner has been recommended to lay out some portion of the money allotted to him in the purchase of grain in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, or other places whence export of that grain is said to be now going on.

The division of Burdwan has not been fully classed as a distressed tract. At the request of the Commissioner, sanction has now been given to the commencement of relief works in the districts of Burdwan, Beerbhoom, and Bancoorah. In Midnapore, however, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it unnecessary to sanction at present the grants applied for, there being a good crop in the greater part of that district. The Kana Nuddee excavation in Hooghly was sanctioned more for the sake of its immediate use for irrigation purposes than as a relief work.

14. The planters of Northern Behar are coming forward in numbers for advances for purchase of grain under paragraph 4, clause (*a*), of circular No. 80. In the Chumparun District it is understood that a committee has been formed by the planters and the Superintendent of the Rajah of Bettiah's Estate; and, subject to the sanction of principals, a large sum has been subscribed for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price.

15. From the Rajshahye Division it is reported that Baboo Luchmiput Sing, Bahadoor, a wealthy Marwaree banker and landholder, has suspended his rents, made arrangements for storing grain, and otherwise provided against the approaching scarcity. The Lieutenant-Governor has published the account of this gentleman's liberal proceedings in the *Gazette*, with the expression of his strong approval.

No. 5.

Fifth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 6th to the 12th December 1873.

It was noted in the last Narrative that in some districts the out-turn of the late-rains rice crop had proved to be better than had been estimated by the local officers. Further information shows that this comparatively favorable result of the harvest is more general than at date of the last Narrative was certainly known, in spite of the blight and the plague of insects induced by the cloudy weather. In the Dacca, Chittagong, and Orissa Divisions, the yield will probably be fully up to what was anticipated in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of the 21st November. In certain districts of Western Bengal the out-turn of late rice may even exceed that estimate. In the distressed districts no improvement is reported now that the commencement of the harvest enables the local officers to give a more accurate opinion.

As regards the spring crops, there is little to report. Further information confirms what was stated in the last Narrative, that the area laid down in these crops is by no means so small as was at first supposed. In some parts of Purneah, it is stated, half as much again as in ordinary years is planted with these crops; while in Sarun and some other districts, on the other hand, some of the usual spring-crop lands are unsown. Generally in Behar these crops where sown seem to have germinated fairly well, and are holding out against the drought with characteristic vitality. This, however, cannot last very much longer without rain. In Bengal the prospect of the cold-weather crops is still very bad. The weekly rainfall, weather, state and prospect of crops return bringing our information down to December 6th and to December 9th for some districts is enclosed herewith. Since that date no change in the prospect has taken place till the partial rainfall of the 11th, which will be noticed below.

2. The weather has become colder, but it is still strange. The dewy nights and foggy mornings usual at this time of the year are absent. The sky has

remained cloudy, sometimes clearing, but the clouds returning again and again till at last a little rain has fallen in the districts about Calcutta. The Meteorological Reporter writes: "During the past week the weather has been of the same character as in the two or three previous weeks: north-easterly winds, a good deal of cloud, a moderate temperature, and a steady pressure, varying but little. During the last day or two there has been more cloud than before, and rain is now (morning of 11th) falling steadily." The rain referred to produced up to the evening of the 11th, ½ inch at Calcutta and Hooghly, and 1·38 inch at Burdwan. Unhappily, however, the last telegraphic reports give no news of rain in Behar, where it is most wanted. As regards the rain which has fallen in this neighbourhood, the Collector of Hooghly says: "Bad for the rice; good for the cold-weather crops." While the Deputy Collector of Burdwan broadly says: "Will do more harm than good." No doubt in the purely rice districts rain at this critical harvest time is a doubtful benefit, but it may be hoped that this report is more gloomy than the fact. Today the weather still looks as if there might be more rain.

3. The fall in prices expected with the harvest of the rice has not been very marked. In Calcutta, as well as in the interior, the tendency is to a fall, but the quotations are not, on the whole, much lower than they were last week. The difficulty of giving in a tabular statement a correct idea of the prices current in the various districts has been before commented on. In the distressed districts prices are somewhat higher in the interior of the districts than the quotations given in the return. In the other districts the reverse of this is the case. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore writes that, while in the Monghyr bazaar the price of common rice has never risen above 12 seers to the rupee, a gentleman travelling in the interior has been paying at the rate of 10 seers for the same grain. On the other hand, the Collector of Nuddea says, that the coarsest rice may be obtained at 13¼ seers per rupee throughout his district, while his return of prices current gives 12¼ seers. So in parts of the 24-Pergunnahs 18 seers is obtainable, and the laborers on the Kana Nuddee, on the borders of Hooghly and Burdwan, get 16 seers in the neighbouring bazaar. Comparing present prices with the average of all December 1865, we find they are higher now than they were then in Northern Bengal, and also slightly higher in Behar. In other parts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower than they were in December 1865.

4. The usual note on the movement of food grains is forwarded. It may be well here to note that, in spite of the high prices ruling in the Calcutta market, 24,950 tons of freight lying in the river was, on the 8th December, under contract for the export of rice to various ports. It is expected that the high prices will not prevent the export of a further quantity of 30,000 tons to the Persian Gulf.

5. It was noted at paragraph 4 of the last Narrative that the Government of India had called for an estimate of the probable amount of grain required for local purposes, and that in reply to this call the Lieutenant-Governor had asked that a total of 18,75,000 maunds of food grains might be purchased and stored before the 31st January. The Government of India, while thinking that ⅔rds of a seer per diem per head, inclusive of women and children, is rather a large famine allowance, have however sanctioned the requisition, on the ground that it is well to leave some margin. The Lieutenant-Governor has taken the opportunity to explain that in asking to have a three months' supply for 5 per cent. of the population in hand by the end of January, his view was that with such a supply the Government would be in a position to take further necessary action in January in case the spring crops fail, or the area of scarcity extends.

In letter No. 3834, dated December 6th, the Lieutenant-Governor instructs the Commissioners of distressed divisions and other officers as to the distribution of the food supply sanctioned by the Government of India.

Some difficulty had arisen regarding the procedure to be followed in making purchases of grain in the North-West Provinces through the officer nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor of those Provinces for the purpose. This difficulty has now been arranged, and in letter No. 53PS, dated 6th December 1873, the officer nominated (Mr. A. Colvin) has been fully advised regarding the purchases he is to make.

The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals regarding extra civil establishments to be entertained for work in connection with scarcity and relief have been submitted to the Government of India in letter No. 3888, dated 11th December.

6. The Government of India having been pleased, as above stated, to approve the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal, that 18,75,000 maunds of Government grain should be provided by the 31st January, the Lieutenant-Governor has made arrangements for completing the share of that amount (about one-half the whole) which has to be provided from Bengal and the North-West Provinces. Since the despatch of the last Narrative it has been ascertained that the arrangements made by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore for grain from the North-West Provinces will secure the delivery in those divisions of about 2,00,000 maunds of grain by the 31st January next. There remains, according to the estimate sanctioned by the Government of India, 1,50,000 maunds to be obtained from the North-West Provinces, and the Lieutenant-Governor has indented on Mr. A. Colvin, the officer who has been placed at his disposal for the purpose by the Government of those Provinces, for the purchase of this amount, asking that one-third may be wheat, one-third barley, and one-third jowaree (*holcus sorghum*). The Lieutenant-Governor has put limits * of price beyond which Mr. Colvin is not to go, but has expressed his hope that the grain may be got below the limit fixed. Out of the 4,00,000 maunds to be provided from Calcutta and the eastern districts, about 1,60,000 maunds has already been bought before the despatch of the last Narrative. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes to arrange for getting 1,00,000 maunds from Eastern Bengal; and he has issued an invitation calling for tenders for the delivery of 1,50,000 maunds in Calcutta. All this grain is to be delivered at different dates before the end of January, and most of it will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, be by that time actually stored in, or in transit to, the interior of the distressed districts. If the Government of India should be able to supply the additional 24,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea in time, we may hope that the whole amount required (18,75,000 maunds) will be in our possession before the end of January.

	Mds.	Mds.
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January, 10,000 tons, or say ...		2,70,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January—		
From Calcutta and the Eastern Districts	4,00,000	
„ Orissa	2,00,000	
„ the North-West Provinces ...	3,50,000	
		9,50,000
Balance to be provided		6,55,000
TOTAL		18,75,000

7. With regard to the total amount of Government grain sent up-country up to the present date, it will be seen that 1,81,500 maunds have been despatched. All arrivals of rice are despatched promptly as they come; the only delay has been in the despatches of certain quantities of Calcutta rice which is shut up in city store-houses, and can only be got out gradually. All rice that comes in ships is unloaded and sent off without any delay whatever, and without causing, up to the present date, any block on the East Indian Railway, or any inconvenience to private traders. Messrs. Bird and Company, the landing and forwarding agents, who contracted to do the loading and unloading work at very reasonable rates, have great command of labor, and have done the work hitherto right well.

A quantity of grain from up-country has also been received by the Commissioner of Patna, but the exact account of these receipts has not yet reached this Government.

8. Regarding the progress made in forwarding grain from the railway stations to the interior, our information is not quite complete. But we may say that the grain from Patna Ghât is being sent off in native boats to Gobindgunge on the Gunduck embankment and to Revelgunge for distribution in the Sarun District nearly as fast as it arrives; from Barrh it is under despatch by carts from the opposite side of the Ganges to Seetamurree in the north of Tirhoot. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore reports that there is no delay in forwarding to Soopole, in the north of his district, all the grain sent to

* For wheat, Rs. 3-12 per maund; for barley, Rs. 3-4 per maund; and for jowaree, Rs 3-0 per maund.

Bhaugulpore. The Caragola and Sahibgunge rice has all gone forward for storage at Dengraghât and Kudba in Purneah. The Luckeeserai consignments have already reached their destination in the south of the Monghyr District. The Rajmehal consignments laden on 500 carts are on the way to the Northern Bengal Railway, and Major Lindsay, the Superintending Engineer, reports to-day that some of it has already reached Parbuttipore, the place of storage. From Kooshtea the Government steamer and flats are carrying away all rice arrivals regularly to Godagree at the mouth of the Mahanuddee. The rice from Goalundo is going forward less rapidly; it has to take a long journey by boat in more or less shallow rivers and channels. The steamer *Flame*, which went up as a pioneer, has not yet come back; boats of the requisite draught are collected but slowly. Still the rice is moving on gradually, and the Commissioner (Mr. Molony) expects that its despatch will soon be expedited. From all sides except Goalundo the local officers universally report that the carriage of the country suffices to carry all the Government and all the private grain importations. The carriage facilities of the districts will, however, soon be tested much more severely, and the Lieutenant-Governor will anxiously await the results of such testing.

9. Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer of the Northern Bengal Railway, has today come to Calcutta to lay his plans and estimates before the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. He reports that engineers have been distributed along the line from Durwanee in the north of the Rungpore District down to the swampy lands in the Rajshahye District; work is being absolutely begun, and it is arranged that all the able-bodied Boona coolies (the "navvies" of this part of India) now at work on local roads should be transferred to the railway works, while the local roads can be kept for the destitute poor of the districts. As yet there is no great demand for employment. Major Lindsay has set aside three of his engineers to undertake (from local relief funds) feeder roads to the railway stations on the middle length of his line; two of these roads have actually been begun. It is hoped that the Government of India may grant permission for Major Lindsay to begin making and burning bricks for the masonry work, as the brick fields will give much labor to the people.

10. It was arranged that the district and divisional narratives from the distressed tracts, under circular No 80 of 17th November, should be submitted in alternate weeks, *i. e.*, fortnightly. The district narratives down to the 29th November, together with the Resolutions of Government upon them, are submitted herewith. The information contained in them has been to a great extent anticipated in the Narrative of the 6th December. The narratives of two Commissioners, bringing the history of affairs down to the 6th December, have now to come hand. They are for the most part reviews of the district narratives for the fortnight ending November 29th. Premising then that these reports do not give the history of affairs beyond the 29th November, the following is a brief synopsis of their contents:—

A.—State of the Country.

There is as yet no general scarcity of food at the high prices quoted. In Northern Chumparun, however, parts of Rungpore, Eastern Rajshahye, and South-Eastern Purneah food may be said to be already scarce. Every effort has been made to obtain information regarding the stocks held, but the information obtained is admittedly unreliable. The enormous area of the country, the suspiciousness of the people in regard to such inquiries, make it very difficult to ascertain with accuracy the amount of food in store. In the absence of statistics we must rely upon the opinion of persons who have means of judging. The general outcome of the opinions given by local officers is that the stocks held are small, not more than equal to a three months' supply. This is corroborated by the fact that the new rice is in some places already coming into consumption.

The condition of the people is generally satisfactory, the tracts mentioned above where food is already scarce being excepted.

There have as yet been no cases of extreme misery and starvation other than such as occur in ordinary years, nor have grain thefts yet become common.

B.—Relief Works.

Various new roads have been marked out, and work has been commenced both upon new roads and upon the repairs of old roads. The supply of food is at present sufficient without recourse to Government stocks. As a rule, employment is not in very great demand, but in parts of Sarun, Monghyr, Purneah, Rajshahye, and Rungpore the demand is brisker than in ordinary years. The condition of the laborers is good.

Some difficulty has arisen about payment for work. The system of petty contract usually adopted is not considered suitable to relief works. On the other hand, payment to individuals entails large establishments. Matters are being adjusted in accordance with the principles determined at the meeting at Government House, 10th November.

C.—Transport of Food.

The supplies of Government grain now going forward will test the means of transport. The local officers as yet anticipate no great difficulty, and are making arrangements for the transport of the consignments of which they have received advices.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

Places of storage have been selected, and the construction of storage houses has been commenced where suitable accommodation could not be otherwise provided. Arrangements for the custody and administration of these storage houses are being made. Government grain is already beginning to arrive.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

With the exception of the planters of North Behar, private parties have not come forward very actively for advances, either for trade or for land improvements.

F.—Charitable Relief.

No actual relief operations have been commenced, nor have preparatory arrangements been made, except in Maldah.

Some further crop reports for December, under circular No. 70 of the 13th October, have come to hand, and will be collated in the next Narrative when they have been received from all districts.

The answers to circular No. 77 of the 13th November, asking for a special report comparing the present year with 1865-66, have not yet all come in. It is hoped that the result of these reports may be forwarded with the next Narrative. So far the general result tends to show that in most districts the autumn crops of the present year are worse than in 1865. This is certainly so in Behar and North Bengal.

The subject of emigration is still under consideration. The gentlemen who have applied for laborers for Assam and Cachar have been told that it is not probable that definite arrangements can be made till after the 15th January. Meantime, the new Labor Transport Act actively engages the Legislative Council. The British India Steam Navigation Company have offered to convey coolies from Calcutta to Rangoon at Rs. 12 a head, exclusive of food on the voyage.

11. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area under irrigation is still extending in the Shahabad District, 12,000 acres having been added since last report. On the eastern side the water, which was described as having reached the Poonpoon River, has advanced 56 miles down that river, bursting some bunds which had been thrown across it. The means for distributing this water-supply are very incomplete, but the Magistrate of Gya is making every exertion to render them more efficacious.

Arrangements are being made for storing grain at eleven places on the works on the western side of the Soane, and at four places on the eastern side.

Some 17,000 laborers are now employed on the canal head works and on the Arrah Canal. No return of those employed on the eastern side has come in. The canal officers agree with the district authorities in reporting that there is no special demand for labor on the Soane works at present.

No report has yet been received that work has begun on the Gunduck embankments.

Owing to the difficulty in working caused by percolation from the Damooda, the Kana Nuddee has not been opened, as it was expected it would be, on the 10th. It will probably be opened on the 15th. Here again there is no great demand for labor, 500 men having left the works during the week. The daily average is now only 890 in place of 1,390 last week.

Till the harvest and cold-weather sowings are completed or abandoned, there will not be much demand for employment.

12. The Commissioner of Patna having represented that the saltpetre makers of Northern Behar are among the poorest of the population, and suffered badly in former times of scarcity, the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the suspension for the present of Act XXXI of 1861, and the employment on relief operations of the establishments appointed under that Act for the detection of illicit salt manufacture by saltpetre makers. The same Commissioner proposed to confine exemption from tolls on roads to carts laden with food grains to the exclusion of wood, indigo, and other produce. It was not thought advisable to make the distinction suggested.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was told that if exportation was going on in his division, he might fairly purchase in the local market so much as would practically put a stop to the export of grain. He, however, showed cogent reasons against the appearance of Government as a buyer in local markets, and the matter has been left to his discretion.

The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore having represented the peculiar position of the district of Singbhoom in his division, he has been allowed to store some grain there. The relaxations of rules under Act XXVI of 1871 (see paragraph 6 of the Narrative of the 28th November) have been extended to the division of Chota Nagpore.

The Commissioner of Orissa does not feel any anxiety regarding the ability of the parties who have contracted to deliver rice in Calcutta to Government to obtain freight. The British India Steam Navigation Company have explained that the former low rate charged by them of 8 annas a bag from False Point was an exceptional one, put on with a view to encourage trade. Trade having arisen, they think themselves now justified in charging ordinary rates. The Company have offered freight to Government on favorable terms.

The India General Steam Navigation Company have offered to run their steamer, the *Pioneer*, to Balasore with flats to bring up rice, if she can get a certificate from the Master Attendant. This, if found possible, will greatly facilitate the import of rice from Northern Orissa.

It has already been mentioned that the planters of Northern Behar have come forward freely for advances for purchase of grain. The Commissioner of Patna acknowledges the zeal they have shown in promoting and supervising the relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor cordially agrees with the Commissioner in his eulogy of the conduct of the planters at this critical time.

The committee which was referred to in the last Narrative as having been organized in Chumparun for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price has commenced operations. Some of the subscriptions promised by the local agents have not been sanctioned by their Calcutta principals, but it is confidently anticipated that the owners in England will support the local agents.

No. 6.

Sixth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 13*th to the* 18*th* December* 1873.

The last Narrative contained intelligence of a fall of rain. This rain fell generally over the Lower Delta and littoral districts, which did not require it. It extended also to Burdwan on the west, and Kishnaghur on the north. It does not appear to have done much harm to the ripening rice; it has not been heavy enough for that; and it has done some good to the spring crops. Unfortunately there has been no rain in the distressed districts where it is urgently required. Since the rain fell, the weather in Calcutta has been more seasonable,

* Subsequently to this date, by orders of the Government of India, contained in letter No. 666 of 23rd December 1873, the Special Narratives appeared fortnightly instead of weekly.

brighter and colder, with northerly winds and dewy nights. The genuine cold weather seems now to have commenced, though even now it is not so cold as it usually is at this time of the year.

2. With the exception of the improvement in the spring crops in certain tracts where rain has fallen, as noted above, there is no change to chronicle this week in the prospect of the crops. The improvement on the estimated out-turn of the winter crops said to be shown in certain districts is not contradicted: in much of the Bhaugulpore and some parts of the Purneah Districts the late rice crop now being harvested is turning out, on the whole, better than had been anticipated.

In Behar the spring crops still hold out against the drought surprisingly well; if rain falls, they will still give a fair out-turn. The crop reports for the week ending the 13th December are enclosed.

3. There has been a slight fall in prices in some districts, but not such a fall as was anticipated on the new rice coming into the market. What was said last week of this month's prices as compared with those ruling in December 1865 holds good this week too. The prices current return for the week ending 13th December is enclosed. The usual note on the movements of food grains is forwarded.

4. While the last Narrative was under despatch, His Excellency the Viceroy was on a visit to the Soane Canal works, where he met the local officers. He was pleased to express his approval of what had been done, and of what was doing, in the distressed districts and at the Soane works. His Excellency's orders have been communicated to the local officers, under cover of a letter, No. 4033, dated today*.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Lieutenant-Governor had submitted to the Government of India proposals for the employment of extra civil establishments on preparations for meeting possible famine. The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals have been sanctioned, and the extra establishments have been distributed. It has been left to Commissioners to decide what extra ministerial and police establishments will be necessary within certain limits; but the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that every economy should be exercised, and that no extra establishments should be entertained until they are absolutely necessary.

The arrangements for promoting emigration from the distressed tracts are progressing: it is said that from the Sarun District, at any rate, very many families of the farm laborer and such like classes are ready to emigrate. If the arrangement is finally made, they will be started in batches of 70 to 100 persons, and will be provided with food from the Government stores on their route. It is possible that before very long some batches of emigrants will have started for the Assam tea gardens *viâ* Durbhanga, Nathpore, Titalya, Julpigoree, and Dhoobree. At Dhoobree a depôt will be formed for receiving the emigrants, whence they will be carried on steamers and flats to Upper and Central Assam. The presence of cholera at Goalundo and on the banks of the Megna makes it specially desirable to avoid the Calcutta and Goalundo route. For Burmah emigrants may be collected either in Behar or in Western Bengal, or in both, if the necessary arrangements should be made.

5. Paragraph 6 of the last Narrative stated the amount of grain which was, under the orders of the Government of India, to be provided in the country before the 31st January. It has now been made almost certain that the whole of the required amount will be secured: the North-West Provinces' officer (Mr. A. Colvin) has engaged to send the full amount we have ordered through him, and it is understood that the supply to be obtained from across the sea by the Government of India is almost secure. An assignment of the supplies coming from the different sources has accordingly been made to the several distressed divisions, care being taken to distribute the supplies so as to involve no avoidable railway or other carriage. It will be seen that a reserve of 3,75,000 maunds has been kept in hand to meet possible requirements in Western or Central Bengal, or to supplement the allotments to remote or specially indigent tracts.

6. Government grain from Madras and Burmah has continued to come in, and is still arriving. Further shipments from Saigon, Burmah, and Madras have been advised. The rice bought in Orissa is coming in slowly; the first

* Letter No. 4033, dated 18th December 1873.

sloop load of rice was rather inferior in quality, but the subsequent arrivals have been fair enough and up to the sample. Some 40,000 maunds of mixed grains, bought from the North-West Provinces, on Government account, have arrived in Behar, and the supplies from this source are coming in steadily. It has not been found convenient to make any large purchases in Eastern Bengal, and the Lieutenant-Governor has felt the less regret at this result, because the surplus of these districts is mostly finding its way to Calcutta. When the present harvest shall have been gathered, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope to collect in Eastern Bengal any further supplies needed for the Rajshahye Division, and to send them by the Megna and Brahmapootra to their destination.

7. The precise price at which Government grain is being laid down in the distressed tracts cannot yet be stated; but the North-West Provinces grain delivered in Behar will probably stand us in about Rs. 3 a maund all round, including bags; the Burmah rice will cost somewhat more than this at Calcutta, and the Orissa rice will cost somewhat less than Rs. 3 per maund. The rice bought in the Calcutta market has proved to be the dearest grain which has yet been bought. Yesterday, Wednesday, the 17th December, was the last day for the receipt of tenders for the supply of 1,50,000 maunds of rice in Calcutta; tenders for as much as 2,67,000 maunds have been received, and the Lieutenant-Governor has accepted tenders for the full amount required at rates ranging from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-15-6 per maund, inclusive of bags.

8. The accompanying table shows that 61,700 maunds of rice have been despatched from Calcutta to the interior. The Government of India has been pleased to permit the Lieutenant-Governor to send Burmah or Madras rice to local relief works, on the ground that the supply from across the sea will very much more than suffice for the imperial works. The despatch of grain from stations on the East Indian Railway to the interior is going on with satisfactory rapidity; the Patna District narrative, today received, shows that up to the 14th December the Magistrate-Collector had received at the Patna and Barrh stations—

	Mds.
Burmah rice	21,975
Bengal rice	41,521
Mixed grains from the North-West Provinces	35,070
TOTAL ...	98,566

and that he had despatched to store-houses in the Chumparun, Tirhoot, and Sarun Districts 65,027 maunds, besides sending 2,000 maunds to a distressed tract in the interior of his own district. From Bhaugulpore detailed information up to the present date is not available; but the Magistrates of Bhaugulpore and Caragola have notified that they can carry across the Ganges to the north of their districts all the grain that has yet come, and as much more as is sent up to 20,000 maunds a week. The despatches to the Rajshahye Division are not going on so rapidly from Goalundo and Kooshtea; but Mr. Toynbee goes up there at the end of the week to see if matters can be expedited. Meanwhile, we are loading at Calcutta a steamer and two flats with Bengal rice for Kaleegunge and Chilmaree on the mouth of the Teesta.

9. The fortnightly narratives from distressed districts for the fortnight ending November 29th were submitted with the last Narrative. Those for the fortnight ending December 13th will be submitted with the next Narrative. The Commissioners' fortnightly narratives submitted in alternate weeks with the district narratives were also alluded to in the last Narrative. That from the Commissioner of Patna, for the fortnight ending December 8th, is submitted herewith, as it contains somewhat later information. The only point of which notice need be taken here is, that the Commissioner is of opinion that the Government importations are checking private trade. An intelligent native gentleman of the Patna Division approvingly writes: "The arrangements made by Government for storing grain for supply when needed have gone far to

assure the people there will be no want." The Commissioner is doing his best to inform the people of the intention of Government to expend its stores of grain in payment for work, and he has been authorized, if he thinks necessary, to make a further attempt to buy through the local trade in order to promote importation.

10. A review of the further reports for December, under circular No. 70 of the 13th October, is forwarded. It shows perhaps, on the whole, that things are a little more promising than the review of the reports for November made them out to be. But no material alteration can be made either in that review, or in the very brief synopsis of it contained in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of November 21st. In the review of the January reports a definite statement will be possible as to whether the out-turn has exceeded the estimate or not.

11. A review of the opinions given by district officers of the extent of the loss of crops in 1873 as compared with the loss in 1865 is also forwarded. It must be remembered that this review does not take into account the fact that the harvests which preceded 1865 were worse than those which have preceded 1873.

It may be noted that as yet this year actual distress has not shown itself anywhere, nor is there any very brisk demand for labor; while in 1865 in some parts distress had shown itself in October.

12. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area irrigated in the Shahabad District now amounts to 121,751 acres. In the Gya District 2,959 acres have been irrigated from the Patna Canal in 68 villages. The total area irrigated up to date on this branch is estimated at 3,732 acres; it is believed that ultimately it will be found that a far greater area has been irrigated. A plentiful supply of water has been sent down the Poonpoon River, so much so indeed that some of the dams constructed for irrigation across the river have burst and a large tract of country has been flooded. Measures have been taken to control the water. The Collector of Patna says some 5,000 acres have been irrigated from the Poonpoon.

The daily average of labor employed during the week on the canal works was 20,000. This is an increase on last week's average, and is said not to be due to scarcity. The work in the Buxar Division has now fairly been begun, an average of 1,226 laborers having been employed during the week. No difficulty is experienced in the supply of food, and the laborers show no appearance of distress. Most of the laborers are doing task work under contractors.

From the Gunduck it is reported that little has been done during the week beyond the commencement of repairs to existing embankments and the alignment of the new embankments. The officers have only just arrived at their stations.

An accident has unfortunately delayed the opening of the Kana Nuddee. The rain of the 11th December caused a fresh in the Damooda River, which destroyed part of the dam, thereby rendering it impossible to admit water into the excavation till the dam has been repaired.

13. With reference to paragraph 9 of the last Narrative, it has been pointed out by the Government of India that the Lieutenant-Governor is competent to sanction such a work as the commencement of brick-making on the Northern Bengal Railway. He has accordingly directed Major Lindsay to proceed with the brick-making, but has at the same time warned him against going to any great expense in leading by land coal or other materials which might be more cheaply carried by boat during the rainy season.

14. It was mentioned in the last Narrative that the India General Steam Navigation Company had proposed to run their steamer the *Pioneer* with flats to Balasore to bring up rice. Unfortunately the Marine authorities have been unable to grant the steamer a certificate.

The British India Steam Navigation Company have replied to the representation made to them regarding their action in raising their rates of freight from Orissa to Calcutta. They say that they formerly carried cargo at abnormally low rates in order to attract traffic. Now that regular rates are freely offered, they think themselves justified in taking them. At the same time they made the offer to carry Government rice at rates 30 per cent. below the rates named in their postal contract with Government. They have

now been asked to put on a special steamer at low rates to carry rice from the Orissa ports to Calcutta.

15. At the instance of the Commissioner, Rs. 1,00,000 have been allotted to the Presidency Division for expenditure on advances for land improvements. The extension to this division of the relaxations of the rules under Act XXVI of 1871, detailed in paragraph 6 of the Narrative of the 28th November, is under consideration.

16. The additional executive and assistant engineers applied for by the Bengal Government on the 16th November have most of them arrived; but several of them having been transferred to the Irrigation Department, the General Department is still short of men. A further application has accordingly been made to the Government of India.

Tools suitable for relief works in the Calcutta and Madras markets have been bought up, as well as all that could be procured in the North-West Provinces, and arrangements have been made for a weekly supply from Madras, North-West Provinces, and other localities. Bombay is also supplying its quota.

It is at present estimated that 1,40,000 hoes and 60,000 pickaxes, in addition to the tools in the possession of the agricultural classes of the distressed districts, will be required for relief operations, and arrangements have been made to procure this number by the middle of March next. Returns, however, of probable requirements of tools have been called for from the Commissioners concerned.

17. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, this Narrative is despatched on Thursday, instead of on Friday, and will be so despatched in future.

No. 7.

Seventh Special Narrative of the Drought from the 19th to the 31st December 1873.

Under instructions from the Government of India, the periodical Narratives are now to be fortnightly instead of weekly; the present is the first fortnightly Narrative.

2. During the whole fortnight the weather in Central and Western Bengal has been clear and bright. The complaint that insects were doing great harm to the crops has ceased almost everywhere. There was very slight rain at Patna and in parts of the Chota Nagpore country on the 21st December, but the fall was not sufficient to affect the rain gauge, or to do any appreciable good. On the 28th December, a little rain fell in Behar and in one or two parts of the Rajshahye Division: we have not yet heard exactly how far the rain extended. The amount registered on the several rain gauges is given in the margin, as far as it is known. Letters from the Relief Commissioner's camp in Dinagepore speak of rain doing good, and of more rain being expected. From Sylhet and Gowhatty telegrams speak of a slight rainfall only. The rain in Bhaugulpore and Purneah will do some good to the young spring crops; even the very light rain in Western Behar may do good and help the dews. In Seetamurree the rain will do good, but there the breadth put down with spring crops happens to be smaller than in the south of the district. It is as yet too soon to say whether this rain makes a material difference to the general prospects of the year. The Lieutenant-Governor has every hope that we shall have a moderate spring crop if the dews continue and if we have more rain. But the spring crop will not greatly improve the condition of purely rice tracts, like Northern Tirhoot, Soopole, Dinagepore, and Bograh.

Rainfall of the 28th December.

Patna Station	from 0·10 to	0·25 of an inch.
Barrh ,,		
Behar ,,		
Arrah ,,		0·10 ,,
Seetamurree in North Tirhoot		0·50 ,,
South Tirhoot (about)		0·10 ,,
Bhaugulpore Station		0·35 ,,
Purneah		0·37 ,,
Julpigoree		0·15 ,,

3. There has been no material change in the state of the crops. The rice crop, which is now nearly reaped, has not turned out better than was expected at the time of the last Narrative, unless perhaps in parts of the Bhaugulpore

District. The Magistrate-Collector speaks of the rice crop in places being better than had been expected—indeed, with the exception of the Soopole Sub-Division, where it is very bad, the rice crop of the Bhaugulpore District is now reported to be half of an average crop. From the other distressed districts no improvement can be reported in regard to the out-turn of the late rice; but the spring crops appear to be still healthy in most places, only in some of the tracts north of the Ganges, where the total rainfall of the season was extraordinarily deficient, do they seem yet to have suffered much. Regarding the area put down with spring crops, no new information has been received. Copies of the rainfall and crops reports for the weeks ending on the 20th and 27th December are forwarded.

4. Prices are in some districts lower and in others higher than at the time of despatching the last Narrative. The fluctuation in prices has for the most part been comparatively small: in Mymensing the price of rice has risen from 16 to 14 seers per rupee; in Rungpore, from 15 to 11¼ seers per rupee; in Burdwan, from 15¾ to 14 seers per rupee; and in Calcutta, from 13¼ to 12 seers per rupee. These are the only serious rises of price during the fortnight. In the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions there has been very little change in prices. In North Behar, where keen distress is anticipated, Indian-corn is nowhere dearer than 16 seers per rupee, and in most places it is considerably cheaper, and the south-east corner of Purneah is the only tract from which prices are reported to be as low as 10 seers per rupee for the food of the common people. Food is reported to be sufficiently abundant in the bazaars everywhere, except in the Purneah tract aforesaid. The prices current statements for the weeks ending on the 20th and 27th December are enclosed: it will be seen that nowhere have prices yet reached famine rates. A native Inspector of Schools, who has just been on tour in Rungpore, reported today that his servants had been paying Rs. 3½, 4, and even 5 per maund (equal to 8 seers per rupee) for common rice; but it may probably be taken that the published prices current represent fairly well the rates at which food in moderate quantities can be got at any of the larger marts in the district.

It is noteworthy that no unusual number of grain thefts or robberies is reported from any of the distressed districts. With future Narratives will be submitted, as per instructions from the Government of India, a table showing the number of thefts, robberies, and dacoities for each distressed district during the month as compared with previous years.

5. A short note on the internal and external trade in food grains has hitherto been added as an appendix to the Special Narrative. It may not be out of place to give here a general outline of the course of the grain trade since the 1st November.

The external trade first merits attention. Since November 1st up to December 30th, the exports of rice from Calcutta to ports other than Bengal ports have amounted to 9,20,482 maunds, while the imports from beyond Bengal have amounted to 68,969 maunds. Some 2,00,000 maunds of grain imported for Government have not been cleared at the Custom House. These imports consist almost wholly of Government grain; the exports are wholly on private account. From Chittagong there was exported between November 1st and December 15th 2,60,000 maunds rice and paddy to ports outside Bengal, while the imports were *nil*. During the same period some thousands of maunds were exported from the Orissa ports out of Bengal, but accurate returns up to date have not been received.

Of other food grains, the exports from Calcutta to non-Bengal ports were, between November 1st and December 30th, as follow:—

Wheat ...	99,766 maunds.	Gram ...	54,864 maunds.
Pulse ..	86,687 „	Miscellaneous ...	13,000 „

Telegraphic advices show that export from Chittagong beyond Bengal still continues. Some 1,00,000 maunds were so exported between the 15th and 27th December.

The trade between Calcutta and Chittagong and the Orissa ports is not external trade, as those ports lie in Bengal territory. The imports of rice into Calcutta from those ports have been, since the 1st November up to the 30th December, 1,51,601 maunds. Taking round numbers, 57,000 tons of food grains have been exported by sea from this presidency against 10,000 tons imported

up to the date of the latest advices since November 1st. Export is still going on briskly, but large Government imports are now arriving.

Next comes the internal trade to Calcutta. That port is supplied by the East Indian Railway with wheat and pulses. The Ganges also brings down small quantities of these grains; at this time of year the Nuddea rivers being closed, this Ganges traffic proceeds to Calcutta by way of the Gorai and the Eastern Canals. Rice comes into Calcutta in large quantities from the districts on the south-west by the Ooloberiah Canal and the River Hooghly. It also comes in by boat and cart from the districts on the north-west. From the south-east it comes in by various water-ways in small boats; but the largest supply is by way of the Eastern Canals from the east. None of the three railways carries any rice to Calcutta. The East Indian Railway brought in 2,45,591 maunds of food grains other than rice in November. Of the November arrivals, 62,814 maunds were from stations below Buxar, for the most part in the Behar Division. There passed down the Ganges between the 1st November and the 23rd December 1,11,095 maunds of wheat and 38,649 maunds of gram, consigned from the Behar Division to Calcutta. This trade found its way to Calcutta by the Gorai and the Eastern Canals. The Eastern Canals brought into Calcutta between November 1st and December 30th, 8,86,000 maunds of food grains, chiefly rice. The supplies from other sources have not been registered.

Chittagong is supplied by boat from Noakhally, Tipperah, and Backergunge. The Orissa ports are supplied from their own neighbourhood by small boats.

Of other internal trade in food grains, that on the East Indian Railway is most conspicuous. Since November 1st this railway has poured large supplies into Behar both from Calcutta and from the North-West. The total consignments from the North-West Provinces and the Punjab to stations in Behar amounted between the 1st November and the 20th December to 4,22,486 maunds, while between November 1st and December 30th 8,05,100 maunds of rice were despatched to those stations from Calcutta. The stations in the neighbourhood of Calcutta have also despatched a good deal of rice to the stations in Behar. Chandernagore has sent 70,000 maunds since November 1st. Of this trade on the East Indian Railway a considerable proportion is on Government account. The total weight of grain carried into Behar by the East Indian Railway from both ends was thus about 13,00,000 maunds for November and the greater part of December, besides 4,00,000 maunds despatched from Howrah and Chandernagore in October.

At two places on the Ganges the upward trade is registered—at Goalundo at the junction of the Ganges and Brahmapootra, and at Sahibgunge where the hills of Western Bengal abut on the river. There is a small upward trade in rice past Goalundo. This trade dissipates itself in the districts between Goálundo and Sahibgunge. It amounted between the 1st November and the 20th December to 1,28,000 maunds. There is also a small upward trade, chiefly in pulses, past Sahibgunge. A very small amount of rice finds its way to Behar by this route at this time of year. The figures of this upward trade past Sahibgunge are, for the period between the 1st November and the 23rd December, pulses 1,05,000 maunds, and rice 88,000 maunds. Both the rice and the pulses come chiefly from Moorshedabad and Rajshahye.

The operations of Government have developed a small trade in rice on the Eastern Bengal Railway from Calcutta to Kooshtea and Goalundo.

The consumption of food in these provinces is estimated to be over one million maunds a day, to which large total the amount of food moved bears a very small proportion.

The above is a review of the grain trade, so far as anything definite is known of it. There is also much trade of which we have no information. We know nothing definite of the importations now said to be going on into the Rajshahye Division.

6. Since the submission of the last Narrative very large consignments of Government grain have reached Calcutta and the distressed districts. Nearly all the 1,50,000 maunds bought in Calcutta on public tender has been delivered and despatched up the country. Burmah and Madras rice is now coming in very rapidly; about 7,000 tons have been delivered up to date, and 4,000 or 5,000 tons more are now in the river. The enclosed statement shows that

during the fortnight under report 2,16,861 maunds of Government rice have been despatched from Calcutta to the distressed districts. Several ships, with Government rice from Madras, Burmah, and Saigon, have arrived during the last week, and as yet unloading and despatch from Calcutta by railway and steamer have kept pace with the arrivals. The first despatch yet made by river steamer left Calcutta during the fortnight, 20,000 maunds having been taken by river steamer from Calcutta to Kaleegunge and Chilmaree, in the Rungpore District, at the rate of 7 and 7½ annas per maund for the whole trip.

7. Exact figures of the arrivals of Government grain from Northern India are not yet available; but about 65,000 maunds of up-country grain (barley, peas, and wheat) had arrived in the Patna Division by last accounts, and about 40,000 maunds in Bhaugulpore Division: 12,000 maunds of rice, bought by the Commissioner of Rajshahye in the markets of Eastern Bengal, were on their way to the north of the Rajshahye Division. The distribution of the grain to store-houses in the interior of the distressed districts is going on in earnest. By the last accounts about—

1,20,000 maunds have been despatched from stations on the railway to places in the interior of the Patna Division.

1,10,004 maunds have been despatched from stations on the railway to places in the interior of the Bhaugulpore Division.

85,000 maunds have been despatched from the stations of Kooshtea and Goalundo on the Eastern Bengal Railway to places in the Rajshahye Division.

Special effort is being made to carry grain as quickly as possible to store-houses in the north of Chumparun, Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Dinagepore, and Rungpore, where distress is likely to be worst, and to which the routes of access are least easy. Already reports have been received of considerable quantities of Government grain having been stored in the interior of the districts of Chumparun, Sarun, Tirhoot, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Rajshahye, and Dinagepore. The precise amounts which have reached their destination are not here given; but the stream of grain transport has now after some difficulties and occasional stoppages fairly and steadily begun, and we may hope that it will continue so long as the season remains favorable. The Commissioner of Patna reports that he can now despatch 60,000 maunds of grain to the interior weekly, and that he hopes to do more before long. The rivers are unhappily everywhere low; boats of small burthen only can ascend the inland rivers, and these boats cannot be had in sufficient numbers. The Patna Commissioner's last narrative and Mr. Luff's log of his cruise in the *Flame* advert to or exemplify the tediousness and difficulty of boat journeys this season. Both in Behar and in Rajshahye the local officers seem to be more and more disposed to trust to carts rather than boats for carriage to places off the very great rivers. It is remarkable how much the facilities for water carriage have fallen short of our expectation. On the 28th December, the Commissioner of Patna wrote: "I cannot get boats enough of the size necessary for the Gunduck voyage, and am sending all over the place for them. I hope to get some from Benares and from the Soane. We can only use on the Gunduck boats of 100-maunds burden."

8. Over and above the receipts of Government grain in the distressed districts, very large quantities of grain have been ordered and are actually being imported for estates under the Court of Wards and by indigo planters and others who have taken advances from Government for the purpose. The Hutwa and Durbhanga Estates, which are in the heart of the distressed tracts of the Sarun and Tirhoot Districts, are importing 1,00,000 and 1,20,000 maunds of grain respectively. Much of this grain is already arriving.

9. Places for storage of grain are everywhere being hired or built. In this matter there is no delay whatever, and the tendency is for officers to make their store-houses more numerous as they learn more of the state and prospects of the country.

10. At page 4 of the Narrative of the 21st December, it was stated that three lakhs of maunds of grain had been contracted for in Orissa at the comparatively favorable rate of Rs. 2¾ per maund delivered in Calcutta. The Commissioner of Orissa had been authorized to make agreements for the supply of a certain amount more, provided the sellers would put it down in Calcutta at the same rate and at an early date. He has now reported that he has

secured 1,27,000 maunds more Orissa rice, nearly the whole of which is to be delivered before the end of January. Twenty-five thousand maunds of wheat from the Nerbudda Valley have been arranged for at Rs. 2-11 per maund, inclusive of bags, but exclusive of railway hire, to the distressed districts. This wheat will be consigned to Bhaugulpore ; it is to be delivered in weekly instalments, and the last instalment is to arrive before the middle of February. This consignment will for the present take the place of certain grain bought through the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, which is turning out badly, and regarding which correspondence is going on. The Commissioner of Dacca has notified the execution in Eastern Bengal of an order he had given for 20,000 maunds of grain before purchases were suspended ; he has been instructed to send this rice in boats by the Megna and the Brahmapootra to such marts in the Bograh District as the Commissioner may indicate.

11. So far as this Government is informed, the grain ordered or purchased up to date for the distressed districts of Bengal is as follows :—

Government of India's orders.	Tons.	Mds.
First order of 5,000 tons from Madras and 5,000 tons from Burmah	10,000	2,70,000
Second order of 40,000 tons to be purchased in Burmah up to the end of May, as per Government of India's letter No. 584, dated 13th December 1873	40,000	10,80,000
Her Majesty's Secretary of State's order for 20,000 tons from Saigon and Hong-Kong, as per Government of India's letter No. 680, dated 25th December	20,000	5,40,000
Government of Bengal's orders and purchases.		
Bought in Calcutta up to the end of December ...	11,851	3,20,000
Ditto by the Commissioners of Divisions ...	11,000	2,97,000
Ditto from the Nerbudda Valley	2,407	65,000
Ditto do. Orissa	15,813	4,27,000
Ditto do. the North-West Provinces through North-West Provinces' Government officer ...	5,481	1,50,000
TOTAL ...	116,552	31,49,000

Out of this total, about 70,000 tons will, it is believed, be in the hands of Government in this country before the end of January. Intimation * has been received from the Government of India that steamers carrying about 24,400 tons of foreign rice may be expected to reach this country before the end of January next; but it is believed that much of this quantity is a part of the 70,000 ordered by the Government of India, as per the above table. So far as the Lieutenant-Governor is aware, the total amount of grain purchased and ordered up to date does not exceed 1,30,000 maunds at the outside. The Lieutenant-Governor is now anxiously considering the question how much more grain he ought to ask for when the supply sanctioned up to the end of January shall have been completed : if the grain has to come from across the sea, it must be ordered soon, for any grain that is bought must be delivered and stored in the districts before the rainy season sets in. Sir George Campbell hopes to submit his views upon this matter within a few days' time. Meanwhile, he has submitted to the Government of India his view that the rice from Burmah or elsewhere ought all to arrive before the 10th May at latest, inasmuch as transport of grain to the interior will be almost impossible when once the rains have fairly begun.

12. Copies of the district narratives for the fortnight ending on the 13th December, and of the narratives furnished by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, are enclosed. From these reports the following general result may be noted here :—

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Actual distress is reported from one part of Chumparun only, and the features of the reported distress are not yet fully known. It is said that actual

* Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce Department letter No. 620, dated 18th December 1873.

distress will probably be felt in part of Tirhoot within a month; and from Bograh report has been received that prospects are now graver than was at first supposed. The people generally are said to be more hopeful than they were in November; and this hopefulness is in part due to the measures Government is taking. The fear is that, if prices keep low and private importations slacken from an undue confidence in the power of Government to meet all requirements, the result might be disastrous. The district officers are doing what they can to explain the intentions of Government as widely as possible; but it can hardly be hoped that the people will not exaggerate the importance of the action taken by Government. In the Burdwan and Hooghly Districts only do the local authorities consider the early appointment of relief committees necessary: in these districts there is a large laboring population always with little above a bare living.

B.—Relief Works.

13. In the Sarun, Monghyr, Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, and Dinagepore Districts considerable bodies of men are employed on relief works. Elsewhere the number of persons on the relief works is small; scarcely any people are yet coming to the feeder roads prepared for their reception in the Northern Bengal Railway country. The great majority of the work-people everywhere belong to the ordinary laboring classes, who are very few in Northern Bengal. The returns of laborers are not complete, but in round numbers—

10,000	were daily	employed	in Sarun.
4,000	"	"	in Tirhoot.
5,000	"	"	in Monghyr.
3,000	"	"	in Bhaugulpore.
3,000	"	"	in the Rajshahye Division.

Correct returns of the laborers in each district will in course of time come in from the Public Works Department, but as yet the returns do not come in regularly.

14. Food is everywhere obtainable on the works, either from petty dealers who set up shops there, or at neighbouring markets. It has not anywhere been necessary to distribute or sell Government grain on relief works. Questions have arisen regarding the rates at which, and the circumstances under which, Government grain should be sold on relief works, and the Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders explaining that some discretion is left to Commissioners as to the price at which they may sell grain on works, but that, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, Bengal rice ought not to be sold cheaper than ten seers per rupee, maize, barley, and Burmah rice being sold proportionately cheaper. The Lieutenant-Governor was unable to accept a suggestion of the Patna Commissioner's, that the price of grain and the rates of wages on Government works should be varied from time to time so as to agree with the prices of food for the time being in the neighbourhood of the particular works. He prefers the plan of selling the Government grain at prices within the limit at which coolies on ordinary wages can support themselves.

15. Schedules of roads and other undertakings proposed for relief works have been received; and the preparation of roads and other works is everywhere going on. The Lieutenant-Governor deemed it right to draw attention to the fact that, while roads and waterways may be prosecuted as relief works from district funds and from such additional grants as the Government may from time to time make, tanks and other landed improvements must be done by landlords themselves from advances under the Act; while river embankments and water-courses must be brought under the new Embankment Act (VI of 1873) in the regular way. He explained that, if it was necessary that tanks and such like works should be undertaken as relief works, and if it was clear that the landholders would not take advances for the purpose from Government, then the question of ways and means for such expenditure must be faced, and special application must be made. Meanwhile, Commissioners have discretion to proceed with such works if actual necessity arises. General attention has also been called to the Embankment Act, recently become law, and the district officers have been instructed to take steps for bringing the new Gunduck embankments under the law.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

16. Regarding private importations, several local officers express a fear that their amount has decreased. The Magistrate-Collector of Shahabad explains that the prices now ruling in his district do not leave any margin for profit on importations from Calcutta. This is no doubt the case, but the prices in the North-West Provinces are still much below Behar prices, and considerable private importations from the north still continue, as has been seen from paragraph 5 (above), on movement of grains. The planters of Behar are continuing to import considerably. Co-operative associations have been formed at Moorshedabad and Pootea (Rajshahye District) for importing grain and selling it at cost price. At Pootea a general reduction of prices is said to have been thereby effected: the Government is giving and will give to such associations any support it can. Certain zemindars of the Rajshahye Division asked the Government to import rice for their estates and sell it to them at cost price: the Lieutenant-Governor considered that it would be better to refer these gentlemen to dealers in the Calcutta market, and to promise that the Government transport officers and appliances would give every help in forwarding any grain they might buy to its destination. As yet they have not given any orders to the Calcutta dealers. Copies of the correspondence which has passed with the Government of India regarding the effect of Government importations on prices and in facilitating exports are forwarded to make the Narrative of the fortnight complete.

17. The distribution of the Government grain to the store-houses in the interior, and especially to the remoter tracts away from railways and rivers, is perhaps the most important work we now have in hand, and it is engaging the most earnest attention of our officers. It may be well to offer here some brief details of the routes and modes of traffic now being tried. Taking the several districts in order, we have—

Patna.—This district stretches along the Ganges and the railway; storage of grain can be done easily here last of all. But a few thousand maunds have been sent by cart to store-houses in the interior; means of carriage are said to be ample, and there is no anxiety about this district.

Gya.—The different parts of this district are being supplied from the Buktearpore, Patna, and Bihta Stations of the East Indian Railway. From the firstnamed station grain goes on pack-bullocks to the eastern and less fertile parts of Gya. From the other two stations grain goes on carts by the Patna and Gya metalled road, and by unmetalled roads which are fairly good. As yet the despatches of grain to Gya have been about 35,000 maunds: the Lieutenant-Governor is somewhat anxious about the Aurungabad (extreme western) part of the district, and has asked the Commissioner to consider how the wants of that tract can be most easily met. He has suggested supplies from the North-West Provinces *viâ* the Grand Trunk Road.

Shahabad.—In this district depôts are arranged on the several works, and are to be supplied from five different railway stations. Grain has only now begun to be despatched to this district, most of which is very accessible, except only the Bhubooah Sub-Division, where distress is likely to be keenest, and to the requirements of which the Lieutenant-Governor has drawn very special attention: the tract will probably be supplied from the Grand Trunk Road.

Soane Canal Works.—The Superintending Engineer at present takes 5,000 maunds of grain a week, and carts it to store-houses as it comes.

Up to the present date there has been no block in South Behar, and the district officers are quite confident of being able to get quite as much carriage as they require.

Tirhoot.—The supply of this district is at once more important and more difficult than the South Behar Districts. Grain is being despatched by three routes—namely, from Patna Ghât Station by boat to Hajeepore, and thence by cart to storage places in the centre of the district; from Barrh Station to Chumpta Ghât by boat, and thence by cart up to Durbhanga, Madhobunnee, and Seetamurree; from Monghyr Station up the Kosee and Ghugree Rivers to a place eight miles from Durbhanga, whence the grain is carried by carts into Northern and Western Tirhoot. A fourth route, the Chota Gunduck, which in ordinary years is navigable up to Rooshra, had to be abandoned because the water in the

river was so low. As yet only 15,000 to 20,000 maunds have reached the Tirhoot District. As 2,50,000 maunds have to be stored there before the end of January, and the store-houses are mostly in the northern and north-eastern sub-divisions, the Lieutenant-Governor is not satisfied with the progress of grain transport in Tirhoot; he is aware that Mr. Bayley is doing what he can to secure greater progress, and he has begged that other matters may be postponed to the urgent necessity of getting grain up at once into the remoter tracts of Tirhoot. The district officers speak of abundance of carts being available, but the transport across the river and its sands causes delay, and as yet the stream of grain transport has not flowed so largely into Tirhoot as the Lieutenant-Governor had hoped.

Sarun.—This district is situated on the river and within easy reach of the railway. Twenty-five thousand maunds have been sent to Revelgunge on the Ganges and to places of debarkation on the Gunduck, and is in transit on carts to the marts in the interior; more is on its way.

Chumparun.—Forty-eight thousand maunds have been despatched by boat to this district, chiefly for the Gunduck embankment works; some of this has begun to arrive, and a little has been moved on to store-houses on local works in the interior. But the transport by boat is very slow; it is difficult to get a sufficient number of small boats to carry all the grain that is wanted at the present season when big boats cannot move up the rivers, and the Commissioner is trying how it will answer to cart 10,000 maunds from the Ganges up to Chumparun, into which district 2,50,000 maunds have to be sent before the end of January.

Monghyr.—Transport is going on very promptly by cart from stations on the chord line and from Luckeeserai into the parts of Jumooee, regarding which there is cause for anxiety. There is no hitch here: the despatches of grain to store-houses in the Trans-Ganges Sub-Division of Monghyr has also gone on smoothly.

Bhaugulpore.—The parts of Bhaugulpore regarding which there is most anxiety are those far north of the Ganges. The Magistrate has been able to send away across the river all the grain that has come to him, and by the middle of December more than 17,000 maunds had actually started from the river-side in carts for the extreme north of the district. The Magistrate-Collector expects to be able to carry all the supplies of Government grain without difficulty.

Purneah.—The district has drawn its supplies as yet entirely from the Sahebgunge Station and there has been a block at the ferry and station. The railway ferry steamer can only carry a limited amount of cargo, and for some days the Purneah carts could not even carry away that much. A special officer is now posted at Caragola and Sahibgunge, and he is getting the grain across in native boats as fast as he can; more carts also are collected to carry the grain from the Ganges into the interior. The Magistrate-Collector is going to essay the Mahanuddee route, and see if he cannot get up grain from Godagaree by boat up to Barsoo, in the south-east of the district. As yet the Purneah grain transport arrangements are by no means complete.

Rajshahye Division.—The arrangements for sending grain to Maldah, Rajshahye, Dinagepore, and the North Bengal Railway works are all part of one scheme. Grain is sent by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea, whence it is taken by Government steamer and flat and dropped at Dhaparee, Rampore Beauleah, and Godagaree. From Godagaree it is carried by boat to Maldah and Raigunge; from Maldah and other marts on the Mahanuddee it goes by cart to Gazole; and from Raigunge the Khurbah depôt is supplied. Some 5,000 maunds were sent from Rajmehal by cart to Dinagepore, but that route was tedious and costly. From Goalundo the river route by the Oorasagur, Burrul, and Atrai was tried, and some 20,000 maunds have gone by that route. But the rivers are low, boats of the proper draught are few, and the papers enclosed show the difficulties in the way. By making a transhipment depôt up the Oorasagur, this route will still be worked, but Major Lindsay has decided also to try two other routes, from Rampore Beauleah and Dhaparee, partly by land and partly by inland streams. From 60,000 to 70,000 maunds are already either stored in these districts, or are in boats on their inland waters, or in carts going up towards the northern store-houses.

Bograh.—This district is being supplied with grain purchased in Eastern Bengal, and sent up the Brahmapootra in native boats. The requirements of Bograh have only lately become emergent, and its supply will be thrown in without great difficulty.

Rungpore.—Grain from Eastern Bengal and Calcutta is on its way to Kaleegunge and Chilmaree at the mouth of the Teesta, both by boat and by steamer. Part will be carried up the Teesta in boats to the ghâts opposite and above Rungpore; part will be carted to the store-houses in the interior from Kaleegunge. Carts and boats are being collected for the internal carriage; the district officer does not anticipate difficulty, but his arrangements have yet to be tested.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

18. Store-houses in most districts have been rented, or have been lent by zemindars at most of the places decided upon; at others store-houses are being built. The places at which, and the quantities in which, grain is to be stored for each work have for the most part been settled. If only we can get the grain to the sites selected, the store-houses will be ready.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

19. In Behar few zemindars have as yet come forward to take advances for landed improvements; and the planters had taken advances largely for grain purchases before the date of last Narrative. In Patna, however, three or four landholders have taken advances for making temporary wells for irrigation. In the Burdwan Division the zemindars seem very anxious to effect landed improvements, and the Commissioner has received applications for Rs. 34,800 advances from one district alone. It is hoped that the money will be promptly given and well spent. Advances of money to zemindars who may desire to help their ryots with small loans have been authorized, but have not yet been made. At the instance of the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, the period for repayment of these advances has been prolonged to the end of 1875.

F.—Charitable Relief.

20. No charitable relief has yet been organized, though in some districts small sums had been placed at police out-stations for succouring travellers or chance strangers who may be destitute. During the next month it may be necessary to form relief committees in some districts.

21. Hitherto the Government has not wholly recognized that the area of immediate distress extends beyond Behar and part of Rajshahye. During the last fortnight the Lieutenant-Governor has been induced by reports which have reached him to accept officially the fact that relief works will probably be required in parts of the Burdwan Division, especially in the Burdwan and Hooghly Districts, in parts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and in part of Nuddea. Burdwan and the western districts possess, more than any other districts of Bengal, a large laboring population; the well-to-do ryots ordinarily keep farm servants; the epidemic fever of the last few years has reduced the *morale* and the vital energy of the people; and we certainly shall have to provide work, and perhaps relief, in parts of Burdwan, and perhaps Hooghly. In part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, too, there has been some failure of crops; the people are not rich, and the Commissioner considers works absolutely necessary in the north-western corner of the district. Nuddea was in 1865-66 the district of Bengal where the scarcity was worst: already there are threatenings of distress in the Meharpore Sub-Division, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to promise to aid the district committee when their funds fall short. The committee has very wisely arranged to spend their available funds on undertakings which will give the best work to the people of the tracts where distress is most likely to appear. The Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate that any immediate distress in these districts will be as keen as it may be in parts of Behar and Rajshahye; but he has been obliged, to provide against the contingency of distress, to urge the preparation of sufficient works, to promise extra funds, and to grant these districts the most favorable terms for advances for landed improvements. If unhappily it should hereafter prove that grain must

be imported into these districts by Government, such importation will be comparatively easy, for these districts lie upon railways, navigable rivers, and metalled roads.

Colonel Dalton's report upon the prospects of his division gives his view of the state of affairs after he had made a tour through Singbhoom, Maunbhoom, and parts of Lohardugga. The Lieutenant-Governor has the utmost confidence in Colonel Dalton's judgment and foresight; has accepted all Colonel Dalton's recommendations, and has suggested that very special steps be taken to promote importation of grain into Palamow—a tract which unfortunately suffered keenly in 1869. The way in which the villagers and headmen in the Singbhoom and Maunbhoom Districts are prosecuting village works of improvement under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioners is most satisfactory. The Lieutenant-Governor has no anxiety for any part of this division, except the Palamow Sub-Division.

22. The Government of India has been pleased to attach two more assistant engineers and four more Public Works subordinates to Bengal, and they have been sent off to work in the distressed districts. The first batch of 8,000 tools from Madras is being landed; and it is hoped that, owing to the Chief Engineer's timely arrangements, all Commissioners will be supplied with as many tools as they want before the press comes on the relief works.

23. The Irrigation Department reports that 3,195 additional acres have been irrigated with Soane Canal water, making in all 128,890 acres in the Shahabad and 8,365 in the Gya Districts. This is independent of the benefit done by letting Soane water into the Poonpoon Nuddee, whence some little irrigation is practised by the Patna ryots. The landholders along the new channels have, wherever water could be spared, filled their tanks with Soane water. Messrs. Thompson and Mylne, zemindars of Beheea, report that in this way about 2,300,000 cubic feet have been stored against the coming dry season. The daily number of laborers employed on the works has risen from 20,000 (paragraph 12 of last diary) to 26,951; most of the laborers are imported, and the Executive Engineer reports that "one-fifth are from the neighbourhood of the works where the people stand out for higher wages." Supplies of food are plentiful and tolerably cheap—about 12 seers for the rupee.

The work on the Gunduck embankment in the Sarun and Tirhoot Districts employs 972 laborers daily. Land is being taken up for the upper embankment in the Chumparun District.

The Damooda water was let into the Kana Nuddee on the 27th December, but it is as yet too soon to hear what good it is doing to the crops: 978 laborers were employed daily on this work during the fortnight. On the Midnapore and Hidgellee Canals the number of laborers is increasing.

24. The Lieutenant-Governor has recommended that a regular emigration agency should be opened in Calcutta for promoting emigration to Burmah, and has submitted a sketch of the establishment that would be required. The Magistrate of Sarun reports that many families have registered themselves as ready to emigrate if only their passage and expenses be paid, but it is not clear yet that these men are willing to go across the sea to Burmah. In regard to emigration to Assam, some correspondence has passed with the Landholders' Association, in which the Association lay stress on the unsuitability of Hindoostanee (Behar) coolies for work in Assam tea gardens. Reports have also been received from the Assam tea districts to the effect that the tea planters have mostly arranged for their supply of coolies for the present season; that they do not like paying Rs. 10 a head for coolies who are only to be under a one year's engagement, and that in a dear year like the present they fear to add to the mouths they will have to feed, especially as during their first year coolies are not so useful as during their second and third years. It seems as if it would not be for the interest of the Behar emigrants or of the Assam planters to send men from the famine-stricken districts to the comparatively unhealthy gardens in the backwoods of Seebsaugor and Luckimpore. The Government will perhaps be able to comply with indents of planters in the more open districts of Nowgong and Durrung, where some of the planters are quite ready to receive Behar emigrants. Any other emigrants beyond the requirements of these two districts will find ample employment on the public works of Lower Assam.

The Deputy Commissioner of Julpigoree has requested that the surplus population of the distressed districts may be settled in the Dooars below the Bhootan Hills, where there is ample waste land ready for the plough. He has been asked for details of his proposal; but for the present the Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to recommend heavy expenditure in planting cultivating colonies of emigrants on Government wastes.

25. The Landholders' Association represented that delays in settling the waste land sale rules prevent tea-planters from extending their industry and finding employment for emigrants to the extent they might otherwise wish. Their representation on this matter has been laid before the Government of India, to whom the waste land sale rules, as finally re-arranged under the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, were submitted on the 31st October last.

26. The Opium Agent reported that the poppy fields in Shahabad promised well: he recommended that the January advance on the expectations of the crop should be raised from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 per beegah of poppy land; and he asked permission to extend the same concession to the opium ryots of other districts where the expectations of the opium crop were equally good. The Agent observed that the ordinary Rs. 4 advance always went, according to the custom of the country, to pay the zemindar's rent, and that the ryots would want some advances for themselves to carry them through the present hard season. The Board supported the Agent's proposals, to which the Lieutenant-Governor agreed. Seeing that the land is taken up by the opium crop, it is satisfactory from a revenue point of view, as well as from the ryot's stand-point, that the promise of the crop in Shahabad is so good as to warrant these extra advances. Report has not yet reached Government of the extent to which it was found safe to extend the concession to other opium districts.

27. By way of making the state of the food markets in Behar and Bengal known in distant marts, a weekly telegram of the rice prices is now sent from Calcutta to the Chief Commissioner of Burmah; and a telegram is sent every three days from Patna and Bhaugulpore to Allahabad giving the price of food grains for publication in a daily newspaper there.

28. As Burmah rice, and especially "cargo rice," are not ordinarily eaten by the people of Behar and Bengal, careful experiments were made in cleaning, dressing, and digesting Burmah rice. The results were, on the whole, favorable; and there seems no reason why Burmah rice should not become acceptable to the people of Bengal when they are accustomed to its preparation and use.

29. Among the events of the fortnight may be reckoned the liberal offer made by the Ranee of Bobili, in the Madras Presidency, of 40,000 maunds of paddy for distribution in the famine districts. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard of the liberality with which Rajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore has directed the remission, not merely the suspension, of Rs. 40,000 out of Rs. 90,000, the rental for this year of his Midnapore estates.

30. Among special schemes which have been discussed during the fortnight for relief works, or for aiding the transport of grain, may be mentioned—

(*a.*)—A new plan for leading a channel behind the old embankment on the Gunduck River: this scheme is distinct from that for making an irrigation channel behind the new embankment. This scheme is rather costly; but if it can be shown that it will answer for irrigation and navigation, the Lieutenant-Governor would be prepared to consider it. Meanwhile, the engineers are investigating its merits as fast as possible.

(*b.*)—The suggestion that a tramway should be laid upon the Gya and Mozufferpore roads to promote the speedy transport of grain, more especially during the coming rainy reason. The Lieutenant-Governor has long had under consideration the great advantage to be gained by laying rails on the Gya Road over which an enormous pilgrim traffic passes every year. The trade route from Seetamurree and Madhobunnee in Northern Tirhoot towards Hajeepore is in ordinary years very large, and might pay for the cost of a light railway.

The Lieutenant-Governor, however, had much doubt whether by any exertions whatever it would be possible to do anything in the way of laying rails on either of these roads in time to be of use during the present crisis. The matter seems to turn upon whether the Government of India can spare from

its stock now in this country rails and rolling stock enough for either or both of these lines. If the material must be got out from Europe, the rails could hardly be laid before the autumn. The matter is now receiving very careful consideration at the hands of Colonel Dickens and Mr. Leonard. Behar could hardly have two more valuable boons than these two railways.

31. With the Third Special Narrative was submitted copy of correspondence in which the Committee of the British Indian Association offered their estimate of the prospects of the country and their views of the action Government ought to take. The Government of India was pleased to invite the Association to state the grounds of their belief that the prospects were more serious than the Government had supposed; and the Committee have furnished a full and careful statement of the case as it appears to them from the papers which have been published. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that a careful analysis like this, coming from gentlemen who have a very large interest in the land of Bengal, is valuable and entitled to weight: at the same time it will be observed that the Association had relied mainly on official intelligence, and had not laid stress on any special sources of information.

32. The suggestion made by this Government, that the transport of grain by the river steamers of the India General Steam Navigation Company should be promoted by Government paying part of the freight, has after some correspondence been finally disposed of by the Government of India, who have deemed it unnecessary to grant any such concession.

33. The British India Steam Navigation Company have agreed to lay an additional steamer on the berth between False Point and Calcutta at reasonable rates of freight for grain, if the Government would provide a hulk whereon freight could be collected. Accordingly, the Lieutenant-Governor has, after consulting the Master Attendant, directed that a hulk shall be hired at reasonable rates and taken down to False Point. This hulk, with the help of the Government hulk, *Deva*, and the Government flat, *Ghazeepore*, will be able to stow a full cargo of rice for one of the Company's steamers. The Company have been told of the arrangement which has been made, and asked to put a steamer on the berth as soon as they learn that the hulk is ready. As there was also much want of freight from Balasore and Chandballee to Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor has, at the Master Attendant's suggestion, put a Government brig, the *Guide*, to carry rice supplied by Government contractors between Chandballee and Calcutta. She will be towed up and down the Hooghly by a Government steamer, and will charge the same rates as the steamer *Celt*, now on the berth. A small charge for warehousing on the flat at False Point will be made, but the charge will not quite cover the cost of the arrangement. The extra steamer and the *Guide* working continuously will, it may be hoped, be able to bring away to Bengal all the Government rice contracted for in Orissa, and also a good deal of private rice which has been bought for the Calcutta market. Without some help of this kind it seemed doubtful whether the Orissa surplus could get to Bengal before the monsoon locks up the Orissa coast.

34. In some parts of the country there is already complaint that drinking water is scarce. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that, independently of the drought, this want of drinking water is one of the great needs of rural Bengal; even where water is to be had, its quality is often bad, and is one great cause of the bowel complaints which recent inquiries have shown to be so common in Bengal. Copy of the orders in which the Lieutenant-Governor has drawn special attention to this important matter is forwarded.

No. 8.

Eighth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 1st to the 15th January 1874.

The weather has been for the most part cold and bright, colder than is usual even at this time of year; but it has been varied by a short change to unusually warm weather, accompanied by showers in some parts of the country,

after which it has again relapsed into clear cold. When the last Narrative was despatched intelligence had just been received of a slight rainfall in Behar on the 28th December. This rainfall extended to Northern and Eastern Bengal, as noted in the margin.

	Inch.
Dinagepore	·32
Maldah	·24
Rajshahye	·01
Rungpore	·38
Bogra	·38
Pubna	·08
Julpigoree	·15
Mymensing	·66
Sylhet	·07
Cachar	·32
Tipperah	·12

There was again a better fall at Patna on the 12th instant, amounting to ·39 inch. No intelligence has been received of this rain having extended elsewhere in the Patna Division, but on the 12th there were slight showers at Monghyr and Bhaugulpore, amounting to ·06 and ·07 inch respectively. At Burhee it drizzled on the afternoon of the 12th, and at Purneah they had an occasional drizzle on the same date. As there was rain at Dacca and Furreedpere (·19 and ·35 inch respectively) on the night of the 12th, and at Gowalpara on the morning of the 13th, there is some hope that the fall may have extended into Northern Bengal. As this Narrative goes to press intelligence is received by telegraph of slight rain having fallen in Tirhoot, and at Arrah at the same time. These falls do not amount to much, but at the present crisis it is some satisfaction to be able to record that there are even indications of rain. The latest accounts of the spring crops show that they are still clinging to life. Where considerable rain has fallen, they have of course been to a great extent saved for the present. A little rain goes a long way with these crops. The Collector of Patna considers himself safe of getting an outturn of half of an average year; and with a few more seasonable showers, he will do better still. Generally in Southern Behar the aspect of affairs, so far as the spring crops are concerned, is still hopeful. In the north of the Patna Division, however, the prospects are still very unfavorable. Much has been done by petty irrigation in Sarun and Patna, and by canal irrigation in Shahabad and Gya. In the Bhaugulpore Division the accounts of the spring crops are still hopeful.

There seems reason to fear that in parts of the Patna Division distress is approaching. The last accounts, however, do not show that it is rapidly increasing. In Sarun "the numbers on relief works are increasing." In Chumparun people "are largely employed on relief works." In Tirhoot there is "distress in some villages." From other distressed districts the condition of the people is still reported to be good. The crop returns for the weeks ending January 3rd and January 10th are enclosed.

2. Prices of common food grains have changed very little during the fortnight under report. In some districts there has been a rise and in some a fall, and the number of districts which show a rise is somewhat larger than those which show a fall; so that, though prices have on the whole slightly risen, they have not yet by any means reached famine rates. In some districts of Behar they are higher than they appear to have been in January 1866; in others they are lower.

The prices current returns for the weeks ending January 3rd and January 10th are enclosed, as well as a table comparing the prices ruling in December 1865 with those ruling in December 1873: it should be noted that we are not very certain about the accuracy of the quotations of 1865.

The export of rice from Calcutta and Chittagong continues as brisk as ever. It is said that prices in London will not longer admit of its being sent to that port profitably. It is satisfactory to find that the East Indian Railway is still pouring in supplies of food into Behar, both from the North-West and from Howrah. The operations of Government do not seem as yet to have greatly deterred private parties from entering the grain trade, so far as the railway traffic shows. The total export of food stuffs from Bengal to places beyond sea since the 1st November now amounts to 78,500 tons, and the imports from beyond sea to 22,900 tons, of which almost the whole was imported on Government account. Wheat still continues to be exported from Behar. The following extract from the last report under circular No. 70, from the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, shows how the districts in the neighbourhood of Calcutta become depleted for foreign export: "But whatever the actual amount of the stocks may be, the Assistant Collector of Diamond Harbour thinks it certain that it is smaller now than at this time last year, and for the reason which I have already given in an earlier part of this

report, *viz.*, that the high prices are tempting the ryots to convert a larger quantity of their paddy than usual into *atop* or unparboiled * rice for exportation. "The high prices," he remarks, "are present and certain; the scarcity of food is prospective and uncertain, and, as with the ignorant and thoughtless the good at hand always outweighs the evil in the future, the cultivators are selling off all their stocks of grain at high prices for export without keeping a sufficient stock in hand for home consumption."

A note on the movement of food grains is forwarded.

3. On Thursday, the 8th January, His Excellency the Viceroy held a conference at Government House, and the present position of the Government as to transport of grain into the interior, and as to the establishment of relief committees and relief centres, was discussed. A memorandum on certain points was hurriedly prepared by the Secretary to this Government for His Excellency the Viceroy, who wished to have it the same day on which the request was made. The facts were there stated, so far as they could be given from the latest reports and returns available the day before the conference, but the information then available in a precise form did not, except for a part of the Bhaugulpore Division, give the facts to any later date than the 27th December—the date of the last fortnightly narratives submitted from each district to Government as previously arranged. The information since received and embodied in this Narrative and its enclosures is drawn from later and fuller reports, which were on the 8th January either in the post or being prepared, in reply to the inquiries made by this Government in the beginning of January. Two letters, dated the 12th January, conveying the orders of the Government of India on the subject of grain transport and of relief committees, are forwarded.

4. In previous Narratives it has been noted that the Government of India had sanctioned a supply of Government grain up to the 31st January 1874 up to a limit of 18,75,000 maunds; and it was subsequently explained that the total provision had come up to 19,25,000 maunds. Out of the total, 15,00,000 maunds were allotted to districts, and 4,25,000 were held as a reserve—a course which the Government of India approved and emphasised. On the 5th January, the Lieutenant-Governor addressed to the Government of India a confidential letter, asking for a further supply of—

(*a*) 75,000 tons of grain, to be pushed forward as fast as possible to distant distressed districts during the three months commencing 1st February.

(*b*) 150,000 tons, to be provided in the same period as a reserve to replace the vacuum caused by exports from Bengal to beyond the sea.

(*c*) 75,000 tons, to replace exports from Bengal to Behar and the North-West Provinces.

On the 6th January, the Lieutenant-Governor was informed by a confidential letter that the additional 75,000 tons (and more than that quantity) had already been arranged for from beyond the sea, which makes, with 30,000 tons provided to the end of January, a total of 110,000 tons on which the Government may calculate. A subsequent confidential letter of the 12th January informed the Lieutenant-Governor that arrangements had already been made for a reserve over and above the 110,000 tons promised to the Government of Bengal from beyond the sea, and that additional precautions would be taken as circumstances seemed to require.

5. On receipt of the letter of the 6th January, the Lieutenant-Governor arranged for allotting to districts so much of the reserve grain (4,25,000 maunds) that had not been previously † assigned; and he issued a notice‡ to local officers that more Government grain would be supplied, and that each necessitous district might expect to receive during the next three months (February—April) at least as much more grain as had been given in the January allotment.

* For ordinary use rice is parboiled before husking; for exportation it is husked without any boiling.

† A part had been already allotted at the instance of the Commissioner of Patna.

‡ See letter No. 61 SR of 9th January 1874.

6. The total January supply of 19,25,000 maunds will be contributed from the following sources, namely :—

	Mds.
From the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces direct into the Behar Districts	4,44,000
From Eastern Bengal direct into the Northern Bengal Districts	80,000
From Calcutta, either Bengal, or Orissa, or Saigon, or Burmah, or Madras rice	14,01,000
TOTAL ...	19,25,000

Regarding the first two sources of supply, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that almost * the whole quantity will reach the distressed districts, and will be more or less forwarded towards store-houses in the interior. Actual returns of the amounts delivered out of these outside supplies have not been received, but the control of these supplies is in the hands of the Commissioners, who report that the whole will be delivered during and before the end of January, and the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that such will be the case.

7. In regard to the Calcutta supply, the Calcutta grain officer's statement shows that 8,39,778 maunds of Government grain had been despatched from Calcutta to the distressed districts up to Tuesday, the 13th January, and that 3,92,910 maunds had been despatched since the date of last Narrative. Up to the same day Government grain had been received in Calcutta from across the sea to the amount of about 27,000 tons †. During the last ten days rice from Burmah and Saigon has come into Calcutta more quickly than it could be sent up-country, and convenient places of storage have been arranged for on the East Indian Railway Company's premises at Howrah alongside of the rails.

8. The Saigon rice, several thousand tons of which arrived within a week, was all packed in bags made of plaited straw; many of these bags had burst on the steamers, and all the grain had to be re-bagged. About 1,000 tons of this rice is being packed at Kooshtea, and the rest is being re-bagged at Calcutta. Some extra cost will be incurred for landing and re-bagging this Saigon rice; but the amount per ton will not be very large, and the Calcutta grain officer will, he is fairly confident, be able to unload all these large Saigon steamers quickly enough to save all charge for demurrage, except perhaps two or three days' demurrage of one steamer. The re-bagging cannot, however, be done on board the steamers, as the time allowed for the steamers' stay in port does not admit of this being done. The Government jails are manufacturing one-maund bags as fast as they can, and they hope to give up to 200,000 bags a month. The re-bagging in Calcutta will be done as far as possible in the one-maund bags, which are more convenient for inland carriage than the ordinary two-maund bags.

9. The Saigon rice is being experimented on as to the best mode of cleaning, cooking, and digesting it. Reports of all the experiments have not yet been received; but so far as information is available, this rice contains about 14 per cent. of quite useless husk, besides 14 per cent. of broken but edible grain. This is a larger proportion of husk than was found in the Burmah cargo rice; but, on the other hand, the Saigon rice is said to be more digestible for Bengalees than the Burmah rice.

10. Towards the end of the fortnight under report there was a block of grain wagons at the Patna Ghât Station of the East Indian Railway. This was at first due to excess arrivals of Government grain, and when the Government grain had been cleared away there was a block of private grain. One result of this block was that, on the 10th January, there was deficiency of wagons for despatch of grain from Howrah. The Government establishments at the Patna stations have been strengthened; and the Agent of the East Indian Railway has promised that as many wagons as the Government here requires, and as its officers up-country can unload and dispose of, shall be forthcoming at Howrah. Other arrangements are under consideration for expediting the traffic at the Patna stations.

* The only doubtful item is 10,000 maunds of Nerbudda Valley wheat.

† The invoices for some of the arrivals are not yet to hand, so that the quantity cannot be precisely stated. Some of this rice has not yet been passed through the Custom House books, and thus the figure here given exceeds the total imports shown at paragraph 2 above.

11. Quite accurate returns of the despatches of grain to, and of the arrivals in, the interior of the distressed districts have not yet been received up to the most recent date, the fortnightly statement only now becoming due: weekly returns on this matter have, however, under the orders of the Government of India, been called for.* But from various reports and notices we now know generally what the local officers' arrangements and preparations are, and the letter and memorandum (dated 14th January) from this Government show to what extent the local officers are, or may be expected shortly to be, working the local transport of grain. The totals there shown are very large, namely :—

Patna Division ...	... ...	1,69,000 maunds weekly.
Bhaugulpore Division ...	... ...	1,05,000 „
Rajshahye Division ...	... ...	60,000 „
	TOTAL ...	3,34,000

The Lieutenant-Governor has little doubt but that the whole of the original supply of grain to the end of January, and most of the additional amount lately allotted from the reserve, will be either stored in, or in transit within, the distressed districts by the 31st January.

12. Paragraphs 29-30 of the Patna divisional narrative, however, represent that the exertions of Government officers in drawing out all available means of carriage have operated to the hindrance of the local private trade. Private importers, Mr. Bayley writes, have to incur demurrage charges and disappointment because they cannot hire boats and carts to carry away their grain. The Lieutenant-Governor fully believes that the strenuous efforts of the local officers in drawing together all available means of transport will have been of great use to the country; but he thinks that the Government grain should not monopolize the means of transport which have been brought together, and that room should be left for private importers. The Commissioner has been instructed to use his discretion in acting in the way he thinks best on the instructions conveyed in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Government letter No. 10 SR of the 3rd January. These paragraphs were as follow :—

"7. While the Lieutenant-Governor thus calls for the strenuous exertions of the local officers to obtain sufficient carriage, and to transport supplies to the more distant tracts not reached by private enterprise with sufficient rapidity, he would also remind them that a great work of this kind to be done on a large scale requires discretion as well as energy. Such service as is required of cartmen and others will not be well done by unwilling men; rough attempts to press carriage indiscriminately may do more harm than good by diminishing the public supply and putting a stop to private supply. Every endeavour should be made to obtain willing and efficient carriage. As before observed, contract rates of transport would be best, but, when necessary, carts and boats may be hired for a period.

"8. At the same time, it must be particularly borne in mind that one great object must be to interfere with private trade as little as possible. Wherever private traders or other private persons are importing, or are willing to import, with or without advances, it will always be better to let them do so by preference, and to obtain the Government supplies through them. It is principally for remote tracts where private enterprise fails that, for so much supply to laborers and relief houses as it may be necessary for Government to undertake, regular transport trains or other means of carriage must be organized."

The Lieutenant-Governor trusts to the discretion of the Commissioners to limit the weekly Government despatches of grain along routes on which there may be hope of a thriving private grain trade. Sir George Campbell fears that for the north of Chumparun, for Dinagepore, and part of Purneah private trade cannot be trusted to do much. For the north and north-west of Tirhoot too, and for the north of Sarun, private trade cannot, it is apprehended, be expected to do nearly all that is required.

13. As the Lieutenant-Governor has said, he has much cause to be satisfied with the energy and success of the Behar officers in calling out really

* Letter No. 112 SR, dated 14th January 1874.

large means of carriage at a comparatively short notice. The difficulties in the way of rapid transport are much greater in the Rajshahye Division, but there, too, the Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate failure. Boat transport in shallow inland waters is (as pointed out in paragraphs 15-18 of the Patna divisional narrative) very slow at this time of the year; yet boats are the ordinary, and by far the cheapest, carriage of the country in the Rajshahye Division; and it is only when the water routes have been found too slow, that the local officers have begun to open cart routes on a large scale, and to organize a large number of carts and bullocks. The Lieutenant-Governor must himself say that two months ago he himself would have been disposed to trust mainly to water carriage for the transport of grain into the interior of Rajshahye: he is glad to say that the local officers have, under the instructions of Government, done their utmost to essay all routes; but it is now clear that cart and bullock transport will have to be largely employed, and that we cannot trust wholly to the water routes. It is satisfactory that the grain transport began and was pressed on early enough in the season to enable the Rajshahye officers to organize and work cart trains when the water routes proved inadequate. At the same time though the water routes are slow yet they are cheap, and the Commissioner of Rajshahye, Mr. Molony, has in his most recent letter (9th January) upon the subject assured the Government that he is going to keep all the water routes working at the same time that the land routes are also fully utilized. The failure of the water routes has, at any rate, more than ever convinced the Lieutenant-Governor of the great need of the Northern Bengal Railway.

14. Among special measures taken to improve facilities for transporting grain may be mentioned the following:—

(1.) The Government river steamer, *Koladyne*, has been sent to help the *Teesta* at Kooshtea. The *Teesta* has proved too weak for the duty required of her, and native boats take from 12 to 15 days to go up-stream from Kooshtea to Godagaree; with help of the *Koladyne* the work of crossing grain from Kooshtea to the river-side depôts in the Rajshahye District should proceed more rapidly.

(2.) There has been some delay in providing the hulk required (see paragraph 33 of the Seventh Narrative) for False Point. But the Master-Attendant writes on the 14th that a hulk has been engaged, and will be at False Point by the 21st. The British India Steam Navigation Company have been requested to put an extra steamer on the berth at once. The Government brig, *Guide*, has reached Chandballee in Balasore, and was to leave yesterday, the 14th, with a cargo of Government grain for Calcutta.

(3.) Mr. H. Hankey, formerly Acting Commissioner of Chittagong, has been appointed to inspect grain transport arrangements, and has taken up his duty at once. On the 12th current, the day after he received notice of his appointment, a letter was received from him showing that he had already reached Rampore Beauleah in Rajshahye.

15. Up to the date of the last Narrative, only in some districts had relief committees been formally appointed, but district officers had been instructed to make preparations, and to organize local committees whenever the necessity appeared, and had a discretion given them to afford relief in any isolated cases of distress that might come under their notice. The Lieutenant-Governor was not desirous specially to press officers to undertake the final formation of committees so long as distress did not seem to be actually pressing and while they had so much heavy and urgent work to do of other kinds. In anticipation, however, of the early need of such measures, the Lieutenant-Governor instructed Mr. Geddes, an officer particularly well qualified for the duty, to compile from the records of former famines, both in Bengal and elsewhere, all the most approved orders and instructions bearing upon this subject. Mr. Geddes has just brought this work to a close, and the time expended on it has been far from wasted.

In communication with the Government of India, it has been decided that the time has now come for making definite and systematic arrangements for the

distribution of charitable relief, so that as soon as the actual necessity first appears, everything may be found in working order. The reports previously directed have therefore been again called for as to the proposed sites for relief centres; the source from which each centre will draw its supply of food; the establishments proposed for each, and the names of the proposed committees of management. Local officers have been authorized to put the committees in actual operation, and raise subscriptions whenever there is any appearance of serious distress, giving on behalf of Government contributions equal to the amount of private subscriptions.

16. In order to have all these arrangements under proper control, and that there may be no hitch in their working hereafter, the Lieutenant-Governor has proposed to the Government of India that the arrangements sketched in Mr. Bernard's letter No. 3888, dated 11th December, should come into force at once, *i. e.*, that Mr. Schalch should be appointed President elect of the future central relief committee at Calcutta for all Bengal, and should undertake, in immediate communication with the Lieutenant-Governor, the drafting of the rules for the guidance of district committees, that these may be submitted for the approval of the Government of India at the earliest possible date. Having done this, Mr. Schalch will, it is further proposed, visit the distressed districts, and arrange with the local officers on the spot all that it is possible to settle beforehand, and give such instructions as will ensure the smooth and efficient working of the scheme when put into actual operation. The correspondence on this subject is noted in the margin.

Circular No. 9, dated 3rd January 1874.
Circular No. 73, dated 10th January 1874, and letter to Government of India, dated 14th January.

17. Copies of the fortnightly narratives from the distressed districts, bringing the history of affairs down to Saturday, December 27th, together with the Resolutions of Government on them, are enclosed. The following is a short *resumé* of the information contained in them. This information is not very recent, the fact being that the narratives of January 10th are now due, but have not arrived in time for this Narrative. It is proposed to ask the Government of India to allow the next Special Narrative to be despatched on 22nd January, so that it may contain the latest information.

A.—State of the Country.

The supply of food in the local markets is still generally ample at the high prices quoted; certain tracts of Northern Behar must be excepted from this statement. These are in Tirhoot—

(1) the eastern corner thannah Singheya,
(2) the north-western corner of the Seetamurree Sub-Division;

and in Sarun—

(1) thannahs Pursa and Bussuntpore in the centre and east of the district,
(2) thannah Burrowlee on the north of the district.

Prices are reported to be in some districts easier, but later information somewhat qualifies this. In Behar they are on the whole higher than they were at the corresponding period of 1865-66. Local officers have been warned not to alarm the people by making inquisitorial inquiries as to the stocks held by them, but such further information on this subject as is contained in these narratives goes to show that things are in this respect not more favorable than had been supposed.

The condition of the people remains, on the whole, as satisfactory as could be expected. In Northern Behar, however, affairs are beginning to give cause for serious anxiety. In parts both of Sarun and Tirhoot distress is already in some degree felt, and people are beginning to look out for work. In the north of Chumparun there is also some distress. Even in Rungpore the reports say that cases of distress are becoming common, especially among professional beggars. The tracts in which distress is most imminent are these—

(*a*) parts of Chumparun,
(*b*) the northern half of Sarun,
(*c*) the northern and north-eastern part of Tirhoot, and the adjoining parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr,

(*d*) the eastern corner of Gya and the adjoining part of Monghyr,
(*e*) the eastern part of Purneah, the northern part of Maldah, and all the north-western half of Dinagepore.

The rainfall and the state of the crops have been fully described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the last, and in paragraph 1 of this Narrative, and need not be further alluded to here.

B.—Relief Works.

Many works are open; others are ready for opening, and others are being prospected. In the Rajshahye Division there is no very great demand for employment, except in Dinagepore, where large numbers are coming to the works. This is very much the case also in the Bhaugulpore Division, and in the Patna Division south of the Ganges. But in the north of the Patna Division the demand for employment is in many parts brisk, and there is occasion for the opening of new works as far as possible. A table showing the number of persons employed on relief works in some districts during the fortnights ending 27th December and 10th January is enclosed.

The laborers employed on relief works are for the most part local men of the ordinary laboring classes. But in some cases emigrant bands of professional coolies have been taken on. Although relief works are intended primarily for the benefit of the districts in which they are opened, the Lieutenant-Governor would do nothing to discourage emigration in search of work. Emigration is a natural distributor, and therefore alleviator of distress, as trade is. Still it has been considered advisable to allow the professional coolies from Bhaugulpore who had monopolized the local works in Maldah to go forward to the railway works.

The laborers are paid for the most part by the task at fair rates, it being desirable to maintain that system as a test till the distress becomes really severe. But as soon as a certain point of distress is reached, the system can be changed.

A dearth of tools was much feared. A statement of the arrangements already made by the Public Works Department for their supply is enclosed. In addition to this, the Department has been ordered to arrange for a further supply of 100,000 mattocks and picks.

C.—Transport of Food.

Later and full information on this head has been given in paragraphs 4 to 14 (above), so the district narratives need not be here abstracted upon this point.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Places for storage of Government grain have been selected in all districts, and store-houses have been rented or are being built. The narratives do not contain exact particulars of the arrangements made in each case, but local officers are confident of being able to house all the grain supplied to them, and their reports are coming in.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

In the Patna Division much has been done, and is being done, by way of advances. In Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye this part of the relief scheme has proved less successful. With the exception of the Northern Behar planters, no class has come forward largely for advances to buy grain. In Rajshahye a few applications have been made. In the Patna Division considerable advances have been made for land improvements, and the system of advancing money for wells on the system followed with opium cultivators has borne fruit. In the districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions advances for landed improvements are being largely taken, and it is expected that in Nuddea also the zemindars will come forward.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Most officers have selected places for relief centres and in some districts relief committees, both central and branch, have been constituted. This portion of the relief operations, ordered in circular No. 80 of 17th November, is not very

forward in all places, but district officers have been directed to carry out their instructions on this point at once. Paragraphs 15 and 16 (above) state at more length the further orders which have been issued on this subject.

18. The monthly reports for the beginning of January, under circular No. 70, dated 13th October, have most of them been received. The harvest has in most parts been completed, and it is now possible to compare previous estimates of the out-turn of the crops of 1873 with the actual yield, so far as it can be ascertained. The local officers' estimates were first reviewed in paragraph 4 and the appendix of the Second Special Narrative for 21st November. The next set of reports was reviewed in the appendix of the Sixth Special Narrative for 18th November. The following is a final review of the local officers' opinions regarding the yield of the crops of 1873. It is to be remembered that it embraces all crops grown in the rainy season of 1873, which are sown at the commencement of the rains and reaped during, or after, the rains, and it excludes what are ordinarily called "rubbee" or spring crops:—

Midnapore (part of), Jessore (part of), Backergunge, Noakhally, Chittagong, Cuttack, Balasore, Pooree.

(1.) *The Lower Delta and the Littoral Districts.*—In November it was estimated that the crops of 1873 would give from three-quarters to a full average crop. In December it was said the crops of 1873 will not be more than average ones all round. The final estimate is that, on the whole, they have not been up to the average. Jessore and Midnapore are worst off with two-thirds of an average crop; then come Noakhally and Backergunge, with something more than three-fourths of an average crop. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes, however, that these are under-estimates, and that the districts last mentioned, with parts of Nuddea and Jessore, have a fair average crop. Pooree and Chittagong have very nearly average crops, while Cuttack and Balasore are better off than usual.

Burdwan, Hooghly with Howrah, and part of Midnapore.

(2.) *Western Bengal below the Uplands.*—Former estimates varied from under one-half to fully one-half of an average yield. The final result is that the crops of 1873 have yielded rather more than one-half of an average out-turn. Howrah appears to be blest with two-thirds of an average. Burdwan had a good early rice crop, and the late rice is now reported to be better than half an average. Hooghly has yielded something under half an average crop.

24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Furreedpore, Pubna, and part of Jessore.

(3.) *The Central Delta Districts.*—The final reports from the 24-Pergunnahs and Nuddea are more sanguine than the former ones; but, on the whole, there appears no sufficient reason for estimating the out-turn for the whole of this tract higher than before. It has reaped from one-half to three-quarters of an average crop all round.

Rajshahye, Dinagepore, Maldah, Bograh, and Rungpore.

(4.) *Northern Bengal.*—The final result of the harvests in Northern Bengal is, on the whole, certainly not better than was anticipated. The former estimate, from one-quarter to one-third of the out-turn of an ordinary year, has not been exceeded. The out-turn has probably been nearer one-quarter than one-third.

Dacca, Mymensing, Sylhet, Tipperah and Cachar.

(5.) *Eastern Bengal.*—The last reports fully bear out the favorable view taken in December. The out-turn of the crops of 1873 has been from two-thirds to a full average. Tipperah is perhaps better off than before reported, but the difference is not so great as to affect the general average.

Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, part of Midnapore, Maunbhoom, Hazareebaugh, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Sonthal Pergunnahs, part of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

(6.) *The Up-land Country of Bengal and Chota Nagpore.*—The former estimates of the probable yield in this tract were perhaps, if anything, sanguine. The former estimate was that the crops of 1873 would yield from one-half to three-quarters of a full average year. The result has been that from one-half to two-thirds of an average has been reaped.

Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, and Purneah.

(7*a*.) *Northern Behar.*—It is now certain that, on the whole, less than one-third of the out-turn of an ordinary year has been obtained in this tract from the crops of 1873. Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun show no improvement. The improvement noted in the last review in the estimates for North Bhaugulpore and Purneah has been justified by the result.

(7b) *Southern Behar.*—In the review of the last set of reports it was stated that the crops of 1873 of this tract would yield one-third of an average. The present reports fully confirm this estimate and somewhat improve on it.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, parts of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

(8.) *Assam and the Hill Districts.*—The present set of reports do not greatly qualify the statements made in former reports. The area of somewhat short crops may be extended from Julpigoree and Cooch Behar, mentioned in last review, to Goalparah. In other districts the crops have been fairly good.

Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Goalparah, Kamroop, Durrung, Nowgong, Seebsaugor, Lukhimpore, Naga Hills, Khasi Hills, and Garo Hills.

(9.) On the whole, the estimate that the crops of 1873 would give, more or less, one-half of an average out-turn is supported by the present reports, which have been submitted after observation of the harvest. Local officers have few subordinates who are able to take trustworthy observations of so intricate and wide a subject as the out-turn of crops; actual survey has of course been impossible. The subordinate executive establishments upon whom much of this work falls are still very raw and untrained, having been but a few months appointed.

19. The following is a general synopsis of the prospects of the spring crops as described in these reports under circular No. 70 for January:—

In the Lower Delta and Littoral Districts and in Eastern Bengal they are doing well, and will in all probability give an average yield, though in these districts they are very small in quantity.

In Western Bengal below the uplands and in the Central Delta Districts the prospect is bad. The out-turn will probably not be more than one-half that of an ordinary year. In Northern Bengal the prospect is also bad, but not hopeless, though, according to the reports, there seems little chance of more than one-third of an average out-turn being obtained. Overmost of these tracts the spring crops do not contribute largely to the food supply of the country. Grains produced from these crops form less than one-eighth of the total food supply.

In Behar, on the other hand, the spring crops contribute a very considerable quota of the food supply of the people, ranging from one-eighth on the borders of Bengal proper, to one-half in the districts bordering on the North-West Provinces. In all this country the rubbee prospects still largely depend on more rain in the present month. In the Patna Division south of the Ganges, on the whole, half a crop is expected, which will be better with seasonable rain, and may be much better. In the Patna Division north of the Ganges from one-third to one-half the yield of an average crop may still be obtained. In the Bhaugulpore Division the spring (rubbee) crops, taking all the circumstances into consideration, promise marvellously well, according to these reports.

20. One other point in this set of reports may be noticed here. Local officers were required to ascertain, as far as possible, the amount of grain held in stock by landholders, traders, and ryots. The result of their inquiries, which they were warned should not be inquisitorial, is not very definite. But on the whole, looking not only to these reports but also to what is generally known of the habits of the people, the Lieutenant-Governor estimates that the supply of food grown in the country is annually either exported or consumed, and that stocks are as a rule about two to three months in advance of the supply—that is, that if no crops at all had been reaped in the late harvest, the people could still have found support for two or three months from the stocks in hand.

21. It was mentioned in the last Narrative that the Lieutenant-Governor had recognized the fact that relief works would probably become necessary in some districts of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The Commissioner of Burdwan has now submitted a report showing the proposals made for relief works in the different districts. The ordinary annual road works are in progress, and the Commissioner has not yet decided what works he will sanction as special relief works. His proposal to allot Rs. 10,000 to each district, with the exception of Midnapore, for advances under Act XXVI of 1871, applications for which have been freely made, especially in Burdwan, has been approved. The offer of Government to bear one-third of the cost of works of public utility in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly has been extended to Bancoorah and Beerbhoom. The Commissioner has received full authority to use his discretion in regard to advances, and has been told that no work, fit to be sanctioned,

should be delayed for want of funds. Extra subordinate native constables have been allotted to Burdwan and Hooghly.

22. To the Nuddea District a special sub-deputy has been allotted for work in connection with scarcity and relief. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division thinks that with the grant he has received for advances for land improvements, and the funds now at the command of the district road cess committees, full work can be provided for all who are likely to demand it. If extra grants are required, he will make early application.

23. Reference was made in the last Narrative to the state of affairs in the division of Chota Nagpore, and it was stated that anxiety was felt on account of the sub-division of Palamow in the Lohardugga District. This sub-division has been recognized as a tract in which relief works will be required, and preliminary arrangements have been ordered. Happily, however, there has been at least one good fall of rain there.

In Maunbhoom vegetable seeds have been distributed, and the experiment is considered to have been a successful one; barley seed, distributed by the Deputy Commissioner, has been eagerly taken and readily sown.

24. It has before been mentioned that a limited area in the north-eastern corner of Balasore had suffered severely from drought. The Commissioner of Orissa proposed to remit the January instalment of revenue from the area affected, on condition that the amount remitted should be made good by the landholders in 1875. It was considered that a strong enough case for the remission of revenue had not been made out.

25. Certain estates, the property of Government, had balances at their credit from the 3 per cent. annually deducted from their rental on account of the Government Estates Improvement Fund: lists of these balances have been circulated, and Commissioners have been informed that the present is considered a favourable opportunity for expending them. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has already arranged for expending the balances of his division, and the Commissioner of Rajshahye has reported a full scheme for expending to advantage his district balances at the credit of this fund.

26. It was found that some local officers entertained erroneous notions as to the manner in which relief works should be carried out. They were inclined to prefer professional agency to ordinary local agency in the management of the works. The Lieutenant-Governor has reminded them that the works are to be carried out under the district road fund committees by the officers and local men usually employed, supplemented, where necessary, by professional agency. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that planters and other local men who have usually undertaken the supervision of district works are just the persons who should now, where they are willing to undertake the duty, be employed on relief works.

27. Statements having been made in the public prints (whether true or not has not yet been ascertained) that the pay of laborers on relief works in a certain locality had been allowed to get fifteen days in arrear owing to the absence of funds, a circular has been issued insisting that on no account shall works or payment be delayed on such a ground. No formal procedure, the Lieutenant-Governor is determined, shall be allowed to delay the opening of new works, or stop the work on old works when they are required for relief purposes. Local officers have been authorized in all such cases to use their discretion in taking measures without awaiting formal sanction, and in dispensing with routine and formalities generally.

28. Reference has frequently been made to a scheme for promoting emigration from Behar to the tea districts during the present scarcity. Difficulties, however, have arisen, and it has not been thought advisable to press the attempt. A Resolution recorded on the subject, showing at length the Lieutenant-Governor's reasons for abandoning the scheme, is enclosed.

29. In accordance with the orders of the Government of India, a circular No. 8 S-R, dated 3rd January, has been issued, requesting local officers to bear in mind the previous instructions on the subject, that no interference with the trade in grain is to be directly or indirectly attempted. It was found necessary to warn the Deputy Commissioners of Julpigoree and Seebsaugor specially against interference with private trade.

30. Some correspondence on the subject of the purchase of grain by the Government of Bengal has taken place, and the circumstances under which 25,000 maunds were purchased after the receipt of the orders of the Government of India have been explained. It is now clearly understood that without the previous sanction of that Government no more purchases are to be made.

31. The Relief Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division had requested to be allowed to sell Government grain to the local public in certain tracts where local trade can in no degree be trusted to supply the wants of the people. The Lieutenant-Governor proposed to allow the Relief Commissioner to exercise his discretion as to the places at which such a strong measure might be necessary. The Government of India, while holding that the Relief Commissioner's proposals are not opposed to the policy of Government for exceptional localities, has asked for further information before it can sanction them. The Relief Commissioner has been requested to furnish further evidence of the necessity of the measure he proposes.

32. It has been arranged that the fortnightly Special Narrative shall be regularly committed to the public press after the excision of such parts as the Government of India may consider it undesirable to publish.

33. The Government of India having asked for particulars regarding transport of Government grain and the establishment of relief committees in the Rajshahye Division, such information as was then available on these subjects was submitted.

34. The estimate made by the Committee of the British Indian Association of the deficiency in the crops of 1873, as compared with the crops of an ordinary year, did not formally agree with that made by this Government. The Lieutenant-Governor has submitted to the Government of India his reasons for thinking that there is no very great difference in the estimates. The Committee thought there would be a deficiency in the late rice crop of two-thirds, exclusive of Orissa and Assam, where the crops are good. This Government estimated the deficiency in the crops of 1873, including the early rice and other crops reaped during the rains, at one-half more or less, not omitting Orissa and Assam. A further and final estimate of the deficiency is given in this Narrative.

35. In addition to the extra civil and engineering establishments allotted to the Patna Division, intelligence has been received of the deputation on special duty in connection with scarcity and relief measures of six military officers, some of whom have had some civil experience. These officers have been placed entirely at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna to assist in relief operations. Besides these officers, an officer of standing in the Commissariat Department, Colonel Mackenzie, has also been directed to place himself under the orders of the Commissioner of Patna.

36. From the Upper Gunduck embankment intelligence has been received that arrangements have been made with the Rajah of Bettiah's agent for taking possession of the land on the Rajah's estates required for the embankments, and portions of the work have already been aligned. The Executive Engineer reports, under date January 10th, that he will be able to commence work in a week's time. Sites for store-houses have been selected, and materials for their construction are being collected.

37. On the Lower Gunduck embankments in Sarun and Tirhoot, 1,201 laborers were daily employed during the week ending January 3rd, and 1,401 during the week ending January 10th; 1,890 maunds of rice have already been stored, and other consignments are in transit. On the Soane work 1,382 additional acres have been irrigated on the western side of the river, making a total of 130,272 acres irrigated up to date. On the eastern bank 7,041 acres in the Patna and Gya Districts have been irrigated, making a total of 15,003 acres. The Collector of Gya, however, reports that some 28,000 acres in addition have been irrigated from the Poonpoon River which had been replenished with water carried from the Soane. The average daily number of laborers employed during the fortnight has been 32,000. Local labor is reported to be only one-tenth of the total. The condition of the laborers is good, and food is plentiful. At Dehree 27,650 maunds of food have been stored, and 1,000 maunds of wheat and 2,500 maunds of rice are said to be on their way. In

addition to this, 2,000 maunds of rice are in store at the outstations of Navigunj and Dunwar.

38. From the Kana Nuddee works in Hooghly it is reported that water is passing down the new channel at the rate of 250 feet a second; water to the extent of 100 cubic feet a second has been turned down the Bachorda Khal on the right bank of the river. The daily number of laborers employed has fallen from 1,657 to 1,024. The people are reported to be enthusiastic in their expressions of gratitude for the water, which they are using for irrigation of potato and sugarcane crops, and for replenishing their exhausted tanks.

39. No recent intelligence has been received from the Northern Bengal Railway works; but arrangements have been made for having information regularly supplied for future Narratives.

40. In regard to providing native doctors and other medical subordinates for the charge of field dispensaries on relief works, the latest intelligence from the Medical Department shows that twenty hospital assistants and local native doctors have already been collected together, and there will probably "be no want of medical subordinates for the relief works." In the letter of this Government the requirements of the works had been put down, as a preliminary estimate, at about sixty native doctors in all.

No. 9.

Ninth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 16th to the 22nd January 1874.

This Narrative is submitted by special arrangements for the past week, instead of being forwarded on the 29th January, in order that the dates of submission of future Narratives may fit in more conveniently with the dates of receipt of reports from local officers.

The weather has continued cold and bright, for the most part and frosty in the northern districts. The Meteorological Reporter thus describes the weather since the 1st of January: "The cold has been unprecedented in the records of the last nineteen years. On the mornings of the 8th, 9th, and 15th, the thermometer at the Surveyor General's Office marked 51·8°, 51·4°, and 51·5°, the lowest temperature previously recorded having been 52·7°. The ordinary minimum temperature during the month of January is between 55° and 57°. The winds have been variable; chiefly they have blown from the north and east, whereas the prevailing direction in this month is usually from the north-west." From Behar, too, intelligence of extraordinary cold has been received. There water has frozen at night.

A fall of rain in Behar and Eastern Bengal on the 12th and 13th was recorded in the last Narrative. This fall extended, as was hoped, to Northern Bengal, but the quantities recorded are very small. They are noted on the margin. Though the quantities recorded at the various stations are not large, the fall was in some cases heavier in outlying parts than at the head-quarters station. It has benefited the cold-weather crops in several districts, and has enabled the people to recommence agricultural operations in the field.

	Inch.
Patna	·39
Shahabad ...	... slight.
Sarun	... ·19
Tirhoot	·09
Monghyr .	... ·12
Bhaugulpore	... ·07
Purneah ..	... ·07
Dinagepore	... 03
Maldah .	·09
Bograh .	a few drops.
Rajshahye	.. ·15
Kooshtea ...	a shower.
Furreedpore	.. ·35
Dacca ...	... ·19

2. In regard to the crops there is little to report. In the Burdwan Division the spring crops are turning out better than was expected, but there they were expected to be very bad. In the Presidency Division and Central Districts they are still bad, while in Eastern Bengal and the Littoral Districts they continue to give a fair prospect. In Moorshedabad the extreme cold has done them injury. In Northern Bengal the rain has done good. In Rungpore much improvement has resulted from the previous rain.

Turning to Behar, the officers of the Bhaugulpore Division still report favorably of the prospects of the spring crops. Perhaps the Purneah report may be less favorable this week than before. From the southern part of the

Patna Division it is reported that the spring crops are very promising and doing remarkably well. They have suffered from the cold, but have been benefited by the rain. Mr. Levinge, of the Soane Canal works, has been making a tour through the western part of the Gya District, and fully confirms the Magistrate-Collector's favorable report. Great activity is displayed by the people in irrigating their fields.

The northern half of the Patna Division has been to some extent afflicted since last report by west winds, which dry up the spring crops, and by frost, which kills them. Any benefit which may have been derived from the slight fall of rain noted above has been in places neutralized by the dry west winds and hoar frost. In Sarun the mud wells are drying up.

The fear expressed in the last Narrative, that distress was approaching in parts of the Patna Division, has not unfortunately proved ungrounded. There can now be no doubt that distress must soon be severe in parts of the three northern districts of the Patna Division. Attention is requested to the fortnightly narrative of 10th January from these districts. Later reports confirm what is said in those narratives. From Purneah, too, distress is now reported to have commenced in thannah Kudbah, the south-eastern corner of the district.

The weekly rainfall and crop reports for the week ending the 17th January are enclosed.

In Behar the price of common rice has slightly risen at three stations, but remains stationary at seven stations. In Central and Northern Bengal it has risen in five districts; it has fallen in one, and remains stationary in six. In the Dacca Division there has been a general rise; in the Chittagong Division a general fall. In Orissa there has been no change. The price of lesser millets and maize is clearly rising in Behar.

The return of prices current for the week ending January the 17th is enclosed herewith, and also a return comparing the prices of rice which prevailed in January 1866 with those now prevailing. As before explained, such wide limits of variation are given in the records of prices prevailing in January 1866 that it is difficult to fix a mean with certainty. It is not safe to assume, from a record that the prices varied from 9 to 15 seers to the rupee, that the mean was 12 seers. The usual note on the movement of food grains is forwarded. The exports of food from Bengal to non-Bengal ports now amount to 91,400 tons since November 1st, besides 16,380 tons exported in October. As against this, Government has imported up to date about 33,000 tons of rice from beyond the sea.

3. As the condition of parts of Behar is becoming critical, it has been arranged, in communication with the Government of India, that Sir Richard Temple should proceed first to Behar, and afterwards to other distressed tracts, and should personally inspect and direct the relief operations and arrangements now in progress. Full authority will be delegated to Sir Richard Temple to act and issue orders in behalf of the Government of Bengal in the distressed tracts which he may from time to time visit. The necessary orders and instructions are about to issue, and Sir Richard has arranged to start on Saturday, the 24th current.

4. During the past week, Government grain from Burmah has continued to arrive; the Orissa supplies are also coming in gradually. No more Saigon rice has arrived; all the 10,000 tons previously received has been unloaded; 7,500 tons are re-bagged and housed in engine-sheds close to the East Indian Railway. The re-bagging had to be done in a hurry, and the grain will have to be weighed in the Howrah store-house. About 2,500 tons of the Saigon rice has been re-bagged at Kooshtea, and is rapidly going off to the Rajshahye Division from that place. The Government of India has been pleased to place the duty of receiving grain from beyond the sea in the hands of a competent officer directly under its own orders, so that the Bengal Government grain officer will now be able to give up his whole time to the despatch of the grain up-country. (See Government of India letter No. 126, dated 17th January.)

The enclosed statement shows that 152,327 maunds of Government grain were despatched from Calcutta during the week. The largest amount of grain sent away by the East Indian Railway in any one day of the week was 14,000

bags (28,000 maunds); on one day only 5,000 maunds, and on another day only 9,000 maunds, were sent away. The Calcutta grain officer had always more grain on the platforms to send away than the Railway Company could furnish wagons for. The Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway has, however, reported to the Government of India that his line can send away from Howrah some 1,000 to 1,500 tons a day without interfering with the private traffic; but he has asked that he may receive three days before the beginning of each week a table of the despatches of grain which Government intends to make from Howrah during such week. Accordingly a table has been sent him showing the intended despatches for the week beginning on Monday, the 26th January. It must be noted here that one great reason of the shortness of wagons at Howrah was that some hundreds of wagons containing grain for Patna Ghât Station were standing on the line in Behar because there was not sufficient station room or appliances at Patna for unloading them. Matters are, however, improving, for on Tuesday, the 20th current, 40,000 maunds of Government grain were despatched from Howrah, a larger quantity than has yet been sent on any one day. The despatches of last Tuesday being made at night, do not come into the figures shown in the statement.

5. Before proceeding to notice the progress in despatching grain from railway stations into the interior of the district, it may be well to state what has been done or is doing to obviate the block of traffic at Patna, and so enable the East Indian Railway to work rapidly and smoothly. The first step to be taken was to provide more station room on the river-side at or close to Patna. Over 8,000 tons of private grain, and over 4,000 tons of Government grain, were thrown in fourteen days into the Patna Ghât Station, which, being in the heart of a great city, is necessarily more or less cramped. Wagons could not be unloaded fast enough; they had to be drawn up outside the station, and at one time each bag of grain had to be carried on men's heads from the wagons 1,400 yards to the boats. The first thing to do was to stop the despatch of Government grain to Patna until the block had been cleared. This was done, and yesterday (the 20th January) a telegram was received from the Traffic Department saying the Patna Station was clear, and Government grain might be pushed on faster again. This is accordingly now being done. But there was every hope that much more private grain would continue to come down from the North-West into Behar; and the Commissioner reported that ordinary traffic had been much hindered and discouraged by the large Government transactions which occupied so much of the station room, of the railway coolies, and of the boat power. It was therefore necessary to make permanent arrangements for giving relief, and the Lieutenant-Governor suggested that one or more special river-side stations should be made to accommodate the Government grain, while the Patna Ghât and other stations much frequented by private traffic might be left for private importers. The suggestions most approved were, that a river-side station should be made close to Patna City, and that another river-side station should be made either at Barrh or Mokameh. It was also suggested that, if much North-West Provinces' grain came down, the branch line from the Buxar Station to the Ganges might be relaid. The Government of India has been pleased to despatch its Consulting Engineer to the spot with full power to order the immediate construction of such temporary lines and river-side stations as may be necessary. The railway officers are sanguine that the temporary lines required could be laid in a very few days' time. When these stations are made, Patna Ghât Station will be left free for private importers.

One other difficulty was that the number of station coolies (railway porters) who could carry large grain bags was limited, and they were nearly all taken up in unloading Government grain. The ordinary untrained Patna coolies could not, it was said, do this work. Colonel Mackenzie, the Commissariat officer, has set himself at once to organise and train a body of railway coolies who shall do the Government work at the new river-side stations, and so leave the ordinary railway coolies available for private importers. Arrangements are now being made to send as much grain as possible in smaller bags.

Another and a very serious difficulty which has occurred in several places was the crossing of the Government grain over the Ganges. When the grain traffic set in so briskly as it has done during the last fortnight, the native boats on the river could not carry the grain over fast enough. Government officers, being the more active and energetic, had secured most of the boats, and private

trade could not be accommodated. This was a very great evil, and the Government of India has been pleased to assent to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal for hiring two steamers and four flats, which should carry the Government grain across the Ganges from the two new river-side stations, thus leaving private boats for the use of private traders. The steam ferries will cost a good deal more than ordinary native boats would do; but if the Government did not hire steamers for the duty, no one else could, and the native boats on the river are not nearly numerous enough or strong enough to accommodate the whole traffic now setting in from the railway to Northern Behar. It is a very singular fact that in this country of water channels and boats, our difficulty has been in regard to boats and water carriage far more than in regard to land carriage.

6. As was observed in enclosure No. 8 to last (the Eighth) Narrative, the energetic action of the Government officers was not to be regretted, seeing that it had gathered together a large number of boats and carts, and seeing that, by the arrangements above detailed, the Government hopes to leave full room for private traffic. So far as carts in North Behar are concerned, there has not yet been any ground for fearing that Government operations engross all the cart power of the country. Hitherto the Government officers have reported that there are enough carts in Behar to serve all the Government and all the private traffic. It was noticed in the last Narrative that private traders to Patna Ghât Station had incurred heavy demurrage, because they had been unable to remove their grain promptly during the railway block. The Government of India was pleased to intimate that such demurrage charges should, under the circumstances, be borne by Government. The Lieutenant-Governor had, however, during last week, communicated with the railway authorities on the subject, and had, before the receipt of the Government of India orders, ascertained from Mr. Cecil Stephenson that "under the circumstances which occasioned the detention of grain consigned to famine stations, the Railway Company would make no claim for demurrage up to and inclusive of the 24th January."

7. At paragraph 11 of last (the Eighth) Narrative it was stated that the local officers might be expected shortly to despatch to the interior—

Patna Division	...	...	...	1,69,000	maunds weekly.
Bhaugulpore	...	...	...	1,05,000	ditto.
Rajshahye	...	...	...	60,000	ditto.

The district narratives now forwarded show that during the fortnight ending on the 10th January 2,03,000 maunds of Government grain were despatched from stations in the Patna District mainly to the interior of the North Behar Districts. The store-houses in the interior of Patna are being filled, but about them there is no present hurry. There has been delay in getting the Gya grain for the Nowada Sub-Division away from the railway, but the difficulty is being overcome. The store-houses in the interior of Shahabad contained at the end of the fortnight 33,000 maunds of Government grain, besides 35,000 maunds in store-houses on the Soane Canal works, and a great deal more in transit from the railway. Thirty-two thousand maunds of grain had reached the Tirhoot store-houses, and about 33,000 maunds more were said to have nearly reached their destination. This rate of progress was insufficient, and the local officers have promised to send forward from the river-side into the interior of Tirhoot at least 50,000 to 60,000 maunds a week. In the Sarun store-houses 31,000 maunds of grain have already been housed, and the Magistrate reports that all the Government grain that come to him from the railway stations is despatched to the interior as fast as it arrives. Eighteen thousand maunds of grain have been stored in Chumparun, besides the stores at the Gunduck embankment works, and the Magistrate reports that 45,000 maunds a week are being sent forward to his stores.

8. In the Bhaugulpore Division the transport and storage of Government grain has gone on well. One lac and five thousand maunds were lodged in the Monghyr store-houses; and all the grain delivered at railway stations was carried away as fast as it came. Contrary winds and the formation of a sand-bank opposite Bhaugulpore Station impeded the Magistrate's arrangements for some time. Nevertheless 35,000 maunds were in store at the end of the fortnight, and about 30,000 maunds more were in transit from the railway. A consignment of 24,000 maunds that went up the Kosee River in boats for Soopole had not been heard of for some days, but the boats are supposed to be near their destination. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore expects to send off

4,000 maunds a day northwards until he has finished his allotment. The Purneah store-houses contained 58,000 maunds at the end of the fortnight, and complete arrangements have been made for crossing 6,000 maunds a day from Colgong and Sahibgunge to Caragola.

9. The Government grain has taken longer to reach the interior of the Rajshahye Division, and the difficulties have been greater than elsewhere. Mr. Molony's report shows what the grain routes are and how they are being worked. *All* the grain delivered at Goalundo up to the date of the last narrative (*i. e.*, 37,000 maunds) had passed the point in the Oorasagur route, where the despatching officer (Mr. Clay) stationed himself for some days to expedite the passage of the boats up the river. More grain is now being sent to Goalundo for despatch by the same route. From Kooshtea 1,12,000 maunds have been sent off, but nearly all of it went in native boats which took fourteen days to beat up the river to Godagaree. Now that two powerful steamers have been set to work at Kooshtea, the grain will get across the river much more rapidly. Up to the date of the informations embodied in the last narratives, only 38,000 maunds of grain had been actually stored in the interior of the Rajshahye Division besides the grain stored on the Northern Bengal Railway. But about 2,00,000 maunds more were actually in transit by land and water to the interior of the division The Magistrate of Rungpore has reported that he can move into the interior of his district, by carts and boats, 2,000 maunds a day, and that he might carry 3,000 maunds if he used every endeavour. A cart train from Rajmehal *viâ* Maldah to Dinagepore is being organised, and the Relief Commissioner intends to carry 500 maunds a day by this route. The supervising staff has been greatly strengthened. The two steamers and flats at the Kooshtea ferry will carry grain across the Ganges much quicker than heretofore. At the end of the season the rains and floods, which will more or less completely bar the transport of grain into the interior of Behar, will open a number of water routes into the farthest parts of the Rajshahye Division.

10. It has been mentioned that Colonel Mackenzie, of the Commissariat Department, had been placed under the orders of the Commissioner of Patna to assist him in organising transport services. The Commissioner of Patna is consulting with Colonel Mackenzie as to the advisability of procuring camels, bullocks, or other means of transport from a distance. At present the Commissioner's view rather is to collect together carriage of this kind from a distance and to hold it in reserve till the local means of transport—carts—are shown to be inadequate to the demand made upon them by Government and private traders. The importation of foreign carriage involves difficult questions regarding feeding the animals, &c. The Lieutenant-Governor has asked for further aid from the Commissariat Department to assist in organising services for the transport of grain across the Ganges and its adjacent sandy flats at Patna, Sahibgunge, and Rajmehal. The river crossing has already been shown to be the weakest link in the chain of transport.

11. The information contained in the fortnightly narratives from the distressed districts for the fortnight ending January the 10th may be briefly summarised as follows :—

A.—State of the Country.

Food is still generally obtainable without difficulty at the high prices quoted, except in one or two places in the special tracts mentioned below. The prices indicate rather the expectation than the presence of scarcity. Coarse rice is selling at 12 to 14 seers to the rupee, that is, from Rs. 2-13 to Rs. 3-5 a maund. In some places it is cheaper than this, while in others it is as high as Rs. 4 a maund. In Behar Indian-corn is selling at 14 to 18 seers to the rupee, but the former figure is rapidly taking the place of the latter. Wheat is to be bought at 11 to 14 seers to the rupee.

The condition of the people is still generally satisfactory. There is no very brisk demand for employment in most places. The report from Bogra is that "the condition of the people cannot be considered favorable," but the Relief Commissioner, who has lately visited the district, declares it to be in no present danger. The Moorshedabad Magistrate-Collector infers from the high price of food that the laboring classes are in distress. So in the Bhaugulpore Division, where wages are very low, the high prices must have already affected the condition of those

who are dependent upon wages paid in money for their subsistence. Generally, greater distress may be in this way inferred than has manifested itself.

To these remarks on the general position of affairs, the northern part of the Patna Division is an unfortunate exception. In Tirhoot the condition of the people has "become decidedly worse." In the sub-division of Mudhoobunnee people are feeling the scarcity considerably. In Sarun the distress must certainly be said to be increasing. The Chumparun report is still more alarming. People are in that district taking to the relief works in large numbers. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that parts of Tirhoot are already in a critical state, and that relief arrangements in addition to the road-works already commenced, or prospected, will in those parts soon become necessary.

Grain-thefts are not causing any alarm. The table enclosed of the chief crimes against property, during last December, in the distressed districts, as compared with the same month of former years, shows a decided increase of such crime in 1873. This table is submitted under orders contained in No. 601, dated 16th December, from the Under-Secretary in the Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce Department. An account of rainfall and the state of the crops up to the date of the latest intelligence is contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Narrative.

B.—Relief Works.

In the Rajshahye Division there is generally no very excessive demand for employment, except in Dinagepore. In the Dinagepore District, however, work is readily taken up. Nor again in the Bhaugulpore Division and the southern part of the Patna Division do the people seem in great want of employment. The Soane Canal works do not attract much local labour. But on the other hand, in the northern half of the Patna Division, and in part of Monghyr nearly all the work provided has been taken up, and in special tracts it has been found necessary to provide more.

A table is enclosed showing the numbers employed upon relief works in the different districts up to January. These returns are incomplete, district officers intending to send the precise returns to the Public Works Department in a return due a few days later; they have been reminded that the returns of laborers must be punctually submitted. From the narratives the following information is extracted:—Tirhoot employed nearly 10,000, besides about 4,000 people employed by the Durbhanga Estate; Sarun about 13,400; Dinagepore upwards of 6,000; Rajshahye about 500 laborers daily during the fortnight under review.

C.—Transport of Food.

The latest information regarding the transport of Government grain has been fully detailed in paragraphs 6 to 9 of this Narrative. Only in the Patna Division and some of the eastern parts of the Rajshahye Division does private trade in grain appear to be active. The private importations by rail and river into the Patna Division have been as follows:—

	Mds.
Into the Patna District	2,20,931
„ Shahabad District	1,11,011
and by rail into the Bhaugulpore Division—	
Bhaugulpore District	4,922
Monghyr „	18,271

In addition to this, it is stated that 81,000 maunds have found their way into Sarun from Oudh and the North-West. In the north-eastern parts of Tirhoot, and still more in Dinagepore, very little is being done by the trade to supply the necessities of the population. In these parts there appears be no ground for supposing that Government importations have in any way deterred private parties from entering the grain trade.

In enclosure 5 will be found mention of a practice whereby grain-dealers import wheat into the distressed districts at the specially low rate and then attempt to re-export it to Calcutta. The railway authorities refuse to rebook such grain as far as they can; if this perversion of the objects of Government is carried to any great extent, further steps will have to be taken.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

There is nothing further to report regarding the selection of places for the storage of Government grain and the arrangements made for storage-houses.

The movement of Government grain is described in paragraphs 6 to 9 above. Regular tabulated returns of amounts stored in each storage-house will be submitted with the next and succeeding Narratives.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

In the Patna Division advances, both for land improvements and for purchase of grain, are still applied for, and a further credit to meet advances for purchase of grain has been allotted to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore. On the representation of the relief officer of Tirhoot, it has been decided to make small advances to petty traders who take grain into the interior of districts for sale. A man who buys grain at Patna to sell at Mudhoobunnee, some 80 miles distant, can hardly be said to buy locally.

In the Bhaugulpore Division some small beginnings towards taking advances for land improvements have been made. With the exception of the districts of Dinagepore and Bogra, the system of advances has been favorably received in the Rajshahye Division. The applications, however, are not always *bonâ fide*.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Some progress has been made in the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions in the organisation of systems of charitable relief, but some districts are backwards in this respect. The Patna Division is still backward, and the district officers have postponed giving information on the subject until they submit the special report called for by circular No. 9 SR, dated January 3rd.

At a meeting held on the 19th January at Patna for the purpose of organising charitable relief, subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 36,000 were promised.

12. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has submitted plans for relief works in the Palamow Sub-Division of the Lohardugga District. His plans have been sanctioned on the understanding that the necessary expenditure on Government estates shall in the first place be met from the balance in hand to the credit of the 3 per cent. Government Estate Improvement Fund. Palamow is to some extent owned directly by Government. The Commissioner has been authorised to grant advances to the farmers of Government lands in Palamow on the same terms as have been conceded in Singbhoom.

The Commissioner of Burdwan has recommended the commencement of relief works and the organization of a system of charitable relief in the Beerbhoom District. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard of want of employment in the Raneegunge part of Burdwan, and has called the Commissioner's particular attention to the subject. The needs of this division will be carefully considered.

13. It has been found necessary to divide the large district of Tirhoot, which contains more than four millions of inhabitants, and where affairs are looking specially threatening, into two districts for scarcity and relief purposes. The three sub-divisions of Seetamurhee, Mudhoobunnee, and Durbhanga, containing 2¼ millions of inhabitants, have been placed under the charge of separate civil and engineering officers, the former Magistrate-Collector of Tirhoot retaining full charge of the whole district for general purposes, but leaving all business connected with scarcity and relief in the three sub-divisions above-named to the new staff. The orders constituting this new jurisdiction are contained in a Resolution dated 20th January. It has also been arranged to attach an extra judicial officer to the three northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot, as well as to the sub-divisions of Bettiah, Chumparun, and Sewan, in Sarun, in order to set free the sub-divisional officers upon scarcity and relief business.

14. It has been found necessary to issue some further orders regarding the reports to be submitted from the various districts and divisions. Much of the information submitted in the monthly reports under circular No. 70 of October 13th is now no longer required. In its place a report is to be submitted from districts not ranked as distresed in the first week in each month, containing information on the following points:—

A.—General result of the past harvest, the prospects of the spring crops, the extent of the preparations for the early rice crop, and other early crops and their prospects.

B.—The supply of grain in the district bazars, and the extent of district import and export.

C.—The range of prices, and the general condition of the people.

D.—The amount of immigration (if any) from the distressed districts, and the disposal of the immigrants.

E.—The extent to which local works have been utilised and district funds spent for purposes of relief.

F.—Any special matters relating to the scarcity, *e.g.*, establishment of relief committees on account of dearness of food, or any other measure taken in consequence of scarcity.

15. In order to make it quite clear what methods of relieving the impending scarcity have been sanctioned and to what districts they severally apply, a circular letter has been issued summarising, in a convenient form, the orders hitherto passed regarding relief measures. Particular attention is invited to this letter, No. 175 SR, dated 17th January.

16. The Government of India having directed that Collectors should refrain, in the case of zemindars who distinguish themselves by expenditure for the benefit of their ryots in their extremity, from using any coercive process in collecting unpaid arrears of the January instalment of the land revenue, and should be authorised to postpone in such cases if they think fit the collection of the March and June instalments, these orders were circulated to district officers with the Government, No. 155 SR, dated 16th January, in which attention is called to the limitation of the orders to cases where the zemindar actually distinguishes himself by his liberality.

17. Major Lindsay reports, under date January 13th, that the 1,00,000 maunds of rice allotted to him for the Northern Bengal Railway was thus distributed :—

	Mds.
At Sultanpore (Nowgong)...	18,000
„ Goalundo and in transit to Sultanpore (Nowgong) ...	23,734
„ Parbuttypore	5,872
In transit to Rampore Beauleah	20,000
„ transit to Bamungaon	30,000
Balance to be sent *viâ* Rajmehal to Parbuttypore	2,394
TOTAL ...	1,00,000

He adds : " As regards the future transport of rice, supposing pressure to come a month hence, I think that I should have no difficulty in passing up 30,000 maunds a month from Bamungaon and Rampore Beauleah to Sultanpore. I could also count upon taking 10,000 maunds a month *viâ* Rajmehal to Parbuttypore. In addition to this, the route from Goalundo to Sultanpore would be open."

Major Lindsay is strongly of opinion that the contract system should be adopted in making arrangements for transport, and that a permanent service of carts should be organised on the lines of transport. Major Lindsay has succeeded in doing something to improve the channel of the Oorasagur. People are coming in pretty fast to work on the feeder roads which are being constructed from Neetpore in the Dinagepore District. Regular reports from the whole length of the Northern Bengal Railway have not yet come in ; but Major Lindsay writes (under date the 17th January) : " A considerable length of the line is ready for earthwork to begin, the side-widths having been laid out and profiles erected. On this section, near where I am now encamped, people asked for work, and some six hundred odd are now employed. On the feeder roads many miles are ready for the people to work on, and near Syedpore some hundreds are employed. * * * * * I trust the Lieutenant-Governor will be satisfied with the knowledge that any amount of work is ready for the people, and that all who ask for it get it."

18. From the Gunduck embankment works in Chumparun, it is reported that work has been commenced in two places, and that a daily average of 460 men is employed on the upper embankment. Seven thousand and nine hundred maunds of grain are in store on the works. People are coming in readily for employment. From the Gunduck embankment works in Sarun and Tirhoot we learn that the number of men employed daily has fallen from 1,401 to 1,077.

19. On the Soane canal works 32,000 is the daily average of laborers employed. Here, too, there is a decrease in numbers since last week. The

number of acres under irrigation is 133,057 on the west or Shahabad side, and 22,152 on the east or Gya side of the river. Some 35,000 maunds of grain are in store on the works.

20. Work has almost ceased on the Kana Nuddee, only 418 men being now employed. There is now but a small demand for work. The supply of water down the new cut continues good. The zemindars are said to be charging 6 annas a beegah for the water which Government has provided; inquiry is being made into the truth of this statement.

21. The British India Steam Navigation Company was asked to provide additional freight from the Orissa ports to Calcutta. The Company is unable to do this, unless it withdraws a steamer from the mail service between Bombay and Kurrachee. The Government of India has been asked to sanction the temporary withdrawal of one steamer from that service.

No. 10.

Tenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 23rd January to the 4th February 1874.

The weather of the fortnight under report has been very variable, but has happily ended with a general fall of rain which will do very great good. Some rain often falls in Bengal and Behar during the month of January. So far as our records go back, the average rainfall of January is—

Weather and rainfall.

About 0·40 of an inch for Bengal,
„ 0·70 „ „ Behar,

but this average is made up of a much larger fall in some years and none, or next to none, in others. Some rain was therefore hoped for during the month of January. Last Narrative recorded a fall of from one-tenth to four-tenths of an inch over most of Behar and the greater part of Bengal on the 12th and 13th of January. During the fortnight under report there have been two distinct falls of rain, one on the 24th and 25th January, general over Bengal, but which unfortunately scarcely reached the borders of Behar, and a more general fall on the last day of January and the 1st of February, of which we have not details; but we know it to have extended in a beneficial form over Behar, as well as Bengal. The amount of rain registered at each of these two falls is given in the margin, so far as it is known up to the time of writing this Narrative. At one place in the Monghyr District, Jamooee, just where the railway issues from the Sonthal Hills, 3¼ inches of rain fell in 20 hours, the rivers were flooded, and some damage was

	Amount of rain in inches registered at the rainfall of	
	24th and 25th January.	30th January to 1st February.
Burdwan	1·16	1·90
Banoorah	1·25	1·45
Beerbhoom	0·47	0·51
Midnapore	0·44	1·05
Hooghly	0·84	not yet reported.
Howrah	0·64	ditto.
Calcutta	0·58	2·06
Nuddea	1·27	1·58
Jessore	from 0·88 to 0·90 over district.	2·11
Moorshedabad	0·40	1·0
Maldah	1·32	heavy rain on st.
Rajshahye	0·30	heavy rain.
Rungpore	3·80	ditto.
Bogra	2·49	ditto.
Pubna	0·55	ditto.
Julpigoree	1·08	0·20
Cooch Behar	1·40	.....
Dacca	nil.	1·35
Furreedpore	0·70	.....
Goalundo	not given.	2·69
Mymensing	0·81	.....
Tipperah	nil.	1·54
Patna	0·01	0·51
Gya	0·16	1·75
Shahabad	0	1·0
Tirhoot	0	moderate rain.
Sarun	0	0·67
Chumparun	0	general and very beneficial rain.
Monghyr	0	.....
Bhaugulpore	slight rain in interior.	1·23
Purneah	0·40, and more in north of district.	.....
Sonthal Pergunnahs	0·11	0·60
Cuttack	nil.	0·77
Balasore	nil.	1·30
Singbhoom	0·75	not reported.
Maunbhoom	2·03	1·77
Goalparah	nil.	0·50 and 0·63 at Dhoobree.

N. B.—Particulars of the rainfall of the 1st February have not yet been received from Tirhoot and Chumparun *; but a telegram from Patna states that ¼ inch fell at Durbhanga, that from ½ inch to 1 inch fell all over the division, and that the average was nearer 1 inch.

* After this sheet had been printed, intelligence was received that the Tirhoot rainfall of the 1st February 1874 was 0·58 inch and that the Chumparun fall was 1·05.

done. The Meteorological Reporter writes of the weather of the last fortnight thus:—

"After the unusual cold of the first half of January, the weather changed suddenly. The wind went round to the south, and during the last fortnight has blown unsteadily from that direction, becoming westerly in the day-time, and occasionally changing to east, or blowing all round the compass. As a consequence, the temperature has been high for the month of January, the air moist and oppressive, and the sky frequently clouded. On the 28th, ½ inch of rain fell at Calcutta, and on the 31st January and the 1st February 1¼ inch. The rain of the latter date has extended over the whole of the country; that of the 25th was general, except in Behar and the southern part of Bhaugulpore Division."

State of the crops.

2. The following extract from the Lieutenant-Governor's review of the last Patna Division narrative, shows what was said of the condition of the crops in that division up to the last regular reports. The Lieutenant-Governor wrote thus:—"The report of the crops in Patna and Gya is very favorable. The Shahabad account is also not unfavorable on the whole, and we may hope that the rains we are now having will not be too late to benefit the rubbee crops in these districts. The accounts of the rubbee crops of the districts north of the Ganges are very unfavorable, frost having done much damage, and no sufficient rain to do much good having fallen up to the date of the reports. It is not yet known how far the present rain has extended into these northern districts. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the estimates of the Collector of Sarun, and Relief Manager of Tirhoot, of a four-anna rubbee crop on the whole for each district are unduly gloomy. The reports of the sub-divisional and other officers quoted do not seem to predicate so bad a result. The Chumparun report is not explicit about the rubbee, but the previous view had been unfavorable, and this report indicates that owing to frost things looked worse. It is the Lieutenant-Governor's belief that the result in our principal rubbee districts, *viz.*, Sarun and Chumparun, is not yet clear; and that we shall know more what to expect when we hear what has occurred as regards rainfall and its effects in the last days of January and first days of February. In all Sarun and most of Chumparun, the rubbee crop is so important, that the state of these districts will much depend on it. The same may be said of parts of the south of Tirhoot, but in the north and north-east of Tirhoot the rubbee seems to be so small, that we cannot look to it for much improvement."

There seems now every reason to hope that the Lieutenant-Governor's favorable anticipations may be realised.

The account of the spring crops in Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, and the south of Purneah, was also satisfactory up to the 24th January. In those districts the frost had done comparatively little harm. The Collector of Monghyr spoke of the spring crops along the Ganges being as good as any he had ever seen. To the south of Monghyr, and in the part of Purneah near Dinagepore, the spring crops were in bad case. In the Rajshahye Division, where the spring crops are less important than in Behar, the condition of the food crops on the ground up to the 24th January was either good, or moderately good.

Results of the rainfall.

3. The rain of the 24th—25th wherever it fell did unmixed good; in Rungpore and Bogra only was it very heavy, and there it clearly did much good. The rainfall of the 31st January and 1st February may have done some harm to the peas and the linseed which were in flower, and perhaps also to some other crops that had come into ear unusually soon; but on the whole it must have done very much good. It greatly benefited the young wheat, and barley and root crops, as well as the cheena (small millet); it moistened the soil and enabled the people to plough their lands, to transplant their *boro* rice which ripens in April, and to sow cheena, pumpkins and vegetables. The rain, moreover, will promote the growth of fodder for the cattle; it will have to some extent filled the tanks and wells, and secured a fuller water-supply. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, who seems to understand the state of the crops at least as well as any of our officers, wrote on the 1st February: "The rain must have been very general, the wheat, barley, oats and cheena (of which last a large quantity has been sown) will, I believe, be entirely saved. It is said that

peas in blossom, linseed, gram and urhur (pulse) will suffer a little, but the wheat is the great thing. Anyhow, the benefit is immense, and the injury to some crops (if any really) will be comparatively nothing. I should like to see the sun again now." From other quarters, also, have come the remark that the cloudy weather produces blight, and sunshine is wanted. On the 4th February the sky was clear and bright at Calcutta; but as this passes through the press on the morning of the 5th, there has been heavy rain—1·70 inches—with every appearance of more. The weekly rainfall and crop returns will be found enclosed.

Prices.

4. There has been no very sudden alteration in prices. In the Burdwan, Presidency, and Rajshahye Divisions there has been a small rise. In Eastern Bengal the tendency has been for prices to fall during the fortnight. In Behar there has been a rise of prices on the whole, though there has been a slight fall in the price of common rice in Sarun and Chumparun. The subjoined figures show for some of the principal districts the prices as reported on Saturday last, as compared with those ruling at the time of the submission of last narrative (10th January), and as compared with the 24th January 1873:—

Number of seers of Common Rice sold for a rupee on the

	10th January 1874.	24th January 1874.	24th January 1873
Burdwan	14½	14	22½
Calcutta	12½	12½	17¼
Backergunge	17½	16½	29
Dacca	17	16	32
Dinagepore	13¼	13¼	28
Pubna	15	14	28
Patna	13	12	21
Gya	10	9½	18½
Tirhoot	10½	10	22
Bhaugulpore	12½	12½	22¼
Purneah	11	9	28
Hazareebagh	13	13½	17

Thus prices now are, on the average, nearly double what they are in an ordinary year. The only districts in which famine prices can be said to be reached are Gya and Purneah, where rice is selling at 9 and 9½ seers per rupee at the head-quarters. The result of the recent rainfall on prices has not yet been seen; but an engineer who arrived from the Northern Bengal Railway works this morning (4th February) reports that prices went down in the local marts near his work 12 per cent. after the rainfall of the 1st February.

The reports of the Chamber of Commerce during the fortnight showed that the demand in Calcutta for rice for exportation was at one time exceedingly brisk, and that a great deal of rice was coming in from the eastern districts. Towards the end of the fortnight the demand for exportation was said to have lulled. The total exportation of food-grain from Calcutta during the month of January was 42,346 tons; and the total exports for January from Bengal ports, so far as returns have been received, were 59,222 tons. For some of the minor ports telegraphic summaries of the returns only have been received, so the figures may be liable to some slight modification hereafter. The total exports of food-grains from Bengal ports to places outside Bengal amount to over 143,000 tons for the four months ending on the 31st January 1874, and 124,793 tons in the three months from the 1st November 1873; against this the Government imports of grain have been 47,000 tons, and there have been almost no private importations.

Sir R. Temple's tour in Behar.

5. It was stated in last narrative that Sir Richard Temple had been deputed to visit Behar. He left Calcutta on Saturday, the 24th January, stayed some hours at Patna, visited Mozufferpore, the head-quarters of Tirhoot, and met the Commissioner at Durbhanga by the end of the month. Orders have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor delegating to Sir Richard Temple the necessary powers and instructing the local officers. At Patna Sir Richard Temple issued orders for providing shelter for the private grain temporarily, and the Government grain on and about the Patna railway stations; he inspected some

of the chief stations for the receipt of grain, and went over their arrangements with the local officers. He sent down a requisition for a short length of tramway over the sands of the Ganges bed opposite Patna. A proposal for a similar short length of tramway at Champta Ghât opposite Barrh was afterwards merged in a larger proposition. Sir Richard Temple appears to consider the arrangements at railway stations, and generally on the south of the Ganges, to be efficient, and he has expressed his general approval of the conduct of the local officers and of the arrangements which they have made. He telegraphed on the 26th that there was an abundance of boats on the Ganges, and that the carriage resources of Tirhoot and Chumparun were evidently large; but he could not undertake to give a final opinion as to their sufficiency until he visited Mozufferpore and Durbhanga. On the 1st February Sir Richard telegraphed a proposal for laying a tramway from the Ganges opposite Barrh towards and beyond Durbhanga. On this proposition it may be well to extract here the Lieutenant-Governor's observations, as contained in the resolution on the Patna District narrative for the last fortnight, as follows:—

"Sir Richard Temple has recommended a plan, suggested by Mr. Stevens, the Durbhanga Engineer, and passed by the local officers, for laying down a tramway from opposite Barrh to Durbhanga and beyond, a total length of 87 miles. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that the plan estimates a rate of speed in works of this kind which cannot be realised; but he has at once laid the plan before His Excellency the Viceroy, and it has been arranged that whatever is possible shall be done. After conferring with the best authorities, His Excellency has sent Mr. Molesworth to examine the line and ascertain if the whole or any part of the scheme is practicable. There cannot possibly be a better authority; if it is practicable, no time will be lost in laying a line; if it is not, we cannot conquer nature, and must do the best we can by other means. Most competent officers are employed and will be employed to ascertain the best routes, and to devise and superintend the best means of transport. His Excellency the Viceroy has been good enough to place at the disposal of this Government several officers of the Quarter-Master General's Department for this special purpose."

Sir Richard Temple's latest account of the state of the country which he has visited is expressed in the following telegram:—

"Camp Seetamurhee, 3rd *February* 1874.—In Tirhoot alone civil officers expect to have 800,000 to a million on their hands for several months. Of a population of more than four millions in Tirhoot, one-third have lost their harvest almost entirely, one-third have lost the greater part. In Chumparun, 3 to 400,000 persons, and perhaps 100,000 in Sarun, expected to be on our hands, besides some considerable numbers in Gya and Shahabad, altogether about one million and a half in the whole Patna Division. No marked distress anywhere except towards eastern frontier of Tirhoot. In every direction daily hundreds of persons of classes which would not ordinarily labor are coming to relief works. In some places I have seen from 2 to 3,000 persons working. Certainly without help from Government and public, great mortality north of the Ganges would occur; and many tracts throughout northern border of Patna Division would be almost depopulated. Many experienced persons believe that already a large proportion of the population are limiting themselves to one meal a day. People appear gravely anxious but wonderfully patient. The worst feature is that the most affected tracts are the least accessible to carriage. Aspect of fields in two-thirds of Tirhoot District quite wretched."

Telegraph lines in North Behar.

6. At the end of December last the Government of India sanctioned the construction of a telegraph line from Patna *viâ* Mozufferpore to Moteeharee in Chumparun. By the last accounts the material was all on the line, and it was expected that communication from Mozufferpore to the Ganges would be opened before the middle of February. Some delay will occur in laying a telegraph cable across the Ganges, so a temporary office will be opened at Hajeepore, and messages will pass between Patna and Hajeepore by ferry boat. Sir Richard Temple suggested that flying telegraph lines should be constructed to connect Durbhanga, Seetamarhee, and Mudhobance with Mozufferpore, and to connect Bettiah and Ramnugger with Moteeharee. An officer of the Telegraph Department, with a supply of material, has been despatched to Behar to carry out this proposal.

The local officers have been directed to expedite the transport of this telegraph material as far as possible.

Private trade in grain.

7. The private import of grain into the Patna Division continues to be very considerable. The district narratives show that private grain came during the fortnight to the amount of—

	Mds.
In the Patna District	3,82,000
„ Shahabad „	1,20,000
„ Sarun „	80,000

The grain stores in Patna are overflowing, but the dealers seem very unready to carry their grain over into Tirhoot. The subject of promoting the carriage of this grain into the very distressed tracts has been specially commended to Sir Richard Temple's consideration. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor has relaxed the rules under which advances for the purchase of grain may be given to local dealers for the importation of grain from a distance, in order that the traders and shop-keepers of the distressed tracts may go over to Patna and bring back grain for sale in their neighbourhood.

In the other districts of Behar, especially in Monghyr and Purneah, grain seems to move much from place to place within the districts ; but exportation from outside is small compared to the wants of the people. The latest figures regarding the movement of food-grains are forwarded. It will be seen that by the East Indian Railway there went into the distressed districts of Behar—

From Bengal	3,05,700 mds. of grain per week.
„ North-Western Provinces ...	1,67,000 „ „

The figures for the second week of the fortnight are not yet complete, but the total import into Behar from both ends may be taken at about 9,40,000 maunds during the fortnight. Out of this total, about 5,00,000 maunds was Government grain.

Provision of Government grain.

8. On Saturday last (31st July) was published in the *Gazette of India* a despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, to the effect that the Government of India had arranged for 340,000 tons of grain, of which nearly 270,000 tons are, it is believed, to come from beyond Bengal. This provision nearly corresponds with the quantity for which the Government of Bengal ask (*see* paragraph 4 of the Eighth Narrative). It includes the 74,000 tons which have already been sent into the distressed districts. This Government is about to submit to the Government of India its plans for the storage and distribution of the expected supplies.

Despatches of Government grain from Calcutta.

9. The usual statement is forwarded showing the despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight. 4,81,478 maunds have been sent off, of which 4,00,000 maunds have been sent by the East Indian Railway. The East Indian Railway have been able to give a daily supply of wagons at Howrah sufficient for from 1,000 to 1,500 tons. When the new river-side sidings at Patna and Barrh are open, the Government officers in Behar will be able to dispose of more grain than they are now taking, and our despatches from Calcutta may considerably increase. Owing to a block at Monghyr, caused by private grain on account of the Durbhanga estate, and to a temporary reduction* of the despatches to Patna Ghât, the despatches for four or five days out of the fortnight were short. But when the new sidings are open, there should be no reason why 1,500 tons of Government grain should not be sent away per diem from Howrah, and disposed of at the stations in Behar. A memorandum of proposed despatches for the ensuing week is sent to the Traffic Manager every Thursday, showing the quantities to be consigned to each station ; and the Calcutta despatching officer does not depart from this programme without first ascertaining from the Traffic Managers by telegraph that such departure will not cause inconvenience to the traffic.

* Made on the Commissioner's request.

Transport of Government grain.

With regard to the progress made in despatching Government grain into the distressed districts up to the end of January, the subjoined statement will show generally

how matters stand. The total quantity of grain despatched to the distressed divisions up to the 31st January stands thus :—

	Mds.
Despatched by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta up to evening of Saturday, 31st January	13,90,000
Received from the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces, and from local Patna Division dealers, as nearly as can be ascertained	4,30,000
Despatched or received from Eastern Bengal	1,11,000
TOTAL ...	19,31,000

It will thus be seen that something more than the whole amount which this Government had proposed for the supply up to the end of January had actually been despatched to the distressed districts by the 31st of that month. Out of the total despatches, the amount sent to the several divisions stands thus—

	Mds.
Patna Division	10,10,000
Bhaugulpore	5,29,000
Rajshahye	3,92,000
TOTAL ...	19,31,000

Of this total nearly two-fifths had reached its final destination up to the despatch of the district reports of the 24th January, and the rest was mostly in transit on boats or carts, and partly on steamers and railway wagons at the earlier stages of its journey. The greatest difficulties were in the first instance experienced in the Rajshahye Division, where the usual water routes have sadly failed.

The Rajshahye Division is not, however, dependent on water carriage only. Into the north and centre of Dinagepore grain is now being carried by six routes, namely—

(*a*)—By the East Indian Railway to Caragola, thence by the Darjeeling road to Dengra Ghât and by cart across into Dinagepore.

(*b*)—By the East Indian Railway to Rajmehal, and thence by cart from the right bank of the Ganges to Maldah and Dinagepore.

(*c*)—By steamer from Kooshtea to Godagaree, and thence by boat up the Mahanuddee to Raigunge.

(*d*)—To Godagaree as before, and thence by cart up the old Darjeeling road to Dinagepore.

(*e*)—From Kooshtea by steamer to Rampore Beauleah, thence by cart to the upper Attrai and by small boats up the river.

(*f*)—From Kooshtea to Dhaparee, and thence by cart to the Attrai above Nattore and onward both by cart and by boat.

(*g*)—By the Oorasagur, Burrul, and Attrai rivers to Nowgong, and thence by cart or by very small boats to the north of the district.

The relief officer of Tirhoot says he will be able to carry 3,50,000 maunds a month from the Ganges into the three distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot; and the Commissioner of Patna is confident of being able to carry 45,000 or 50,000 maunds a week into Chumparun. The Sarun district being nearer to the Ganges and Gogra will be more easily supplied. Questions of improving and increasing the transport power of North Behar are being carefully considered by Sir Richard Temple on the spot.

The Coosee river route, which was tried by the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore (see paragraph 8 of last Narrative), proved very tedious and unsuccessful. The boats made only 22 miles in 17 days among the shoals at the mouth of the river, and the grain had to be disembarked and put on carts. The grain for North Bhaugulpore now goes wholly by cart from the bank of the Ganges up to Mudheypoorah and Soopole. On the Purneah road from Caragola there was some want of organization; Mr. Hankey, who is employed as Inspector of Transport arrangements, stayed some time in that district, and with the help of the Magistrate-Collector, has brought matters into steady working order.

Loan of a steamer by Khwajeh Ahsanoollah.

10. Khwajeh Ahsanoollah, son of Syed Abdool Ghunny, C.S.I., of Dacca, has most liberally placed his steamer, the *Star of Dacca*, at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of towing grain boats into the distressed districts; she has been ordered to the Mahanuddy, where she will work from Godagaree upwards as far as the water will permit. Meanwhile, Mr. Prestage, the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has agreed to send one of the captains of his river steamers up the Mahanuddy to see how far the powerful steamers and flats belonging to his railway can go now and during the rains. He proposes to have ready for Government use, if required, a steamer and two flats which can carry between 1,000 tons at each trip. These Eastern Bengal Railway steamers are the most powerful on the Bengal rivers, and will, Mr. Prestage believes, be able, when the rivers rise, to make five trips a month from Godagaree to Raigunge, in the Dinagepore District, or to the Teesta. At present, however, steamers cannot go up the secondary rivers.

Government grain from Orissa.

11. The Government grain, and also private grain from Orissa, will now come forward quickly enough. The Government ship *Cæsarowitch* is plying between False Point and Calcutta; the brig *Guide* runs from Chandballee to Calcutta. The Government of India have permitted the British India Steam Navigation Company to take away a steamer temporarily from the Kurrachee service and put it on the Orissa berth. Meanwhile, occasional steamers belonging to that Company are calling at "False Point" and at "Pooree," and are bringing Government and private grain up to Calcutta. Some of the Behar zemindars, who are laying in stores of grain for their ryots, find Orissa their best source of supply.

New railway stations on the Ganges bank.

12. At paragraph 3 of the last Narrative it was mentioned that the Government of India had sent the Railway Consulting Engineer with full power to construct, as proposed by the Lieutenant-Governor, two new river-side stations for the reception of Government grain intended for the northern districts of the Patna Division. The Consulting Engineer reported on the 26th January that two sites had been chosen, one near to the Barrh station, and another near the Patna station, at which new river-side stations were to be made for the reception of all Government grain. Colonel Taylor expected that both the new stations and the necessary sidings would be ready during the first week of the present month (February); that all the Government grain could then be received at these stations, and that the ordinary goods stations could be left for the private traders. Shelter for 2,000 tons of Government grain is also being put up at each of these new stations. Intimation has not yet been received that the new sidings are ready; but the Commissioner of Patna has telegraphed that he can take 45,000 bags (90,000 maunds) of Government grain per week at the Patna Ghât station alone, so that the siding arrangements must be well forward. Opposite the Barrh siding there is a fine straight reach of the Ganges with deep water up to the banks on both sides; in this reach river steamers and flats can work at ferrying grain across the river. But between Hajeepore and Patna Ghât, there is more difficulty; there are several sandbanks, the channel is shallow, and there is doubt whether steamers and flats can come near enough to the bank. By throwing out a mole, however, this difficulty may for a time be overcome; meanwhile, there is a very large fleet of native boats at Patna, ready to work the ferry between Patna and Hajeepore.

Other crossings over the Ganges.

13. At the other crossings over the Ganges, where the transport arrangements had previously halted, much progress is now reported. The two steamers and flats working from Kooshtea are landing at Godagaree, Rampore Beauleah, and Dhaparee from 30 to 50,000 maunds a week. At Rajmehal, a steamer and flat are employed to carry the grain over the Manick Chur, whence it starts by road to Maldah, and to the west and north of the Dinagepore district. The crossings from Colgong and Sahebgunge to Caragola in the Purneah District are now in capital working order; the railway officials, with their steamer, and with the help of country boats, can cross over 4,000 maunds a day; and Major Gordon of Bhaugulpore has organised a service of native boats which are now carrying across 4,000 maunds a day from Colgong to Caragola. Opposite the Bhaugulpore railway station, a sandbank has recently been thrown up,

which compelled the Magistrate to make Sultangunge his receiving station; this change caused some days' delay, but the ferry is now working smoothly and rapidly.

Condition of the people.

14. The district narratives give an account of the state of the people. It may be stated generally, that with the exception of certain limited tracts to be described more fully below, the supply of grain in the local marts is sufficient, and there is as yet no actual distress of a severe kind. High prices there are, and must be, until a new crop shall have been reaped next autumn. Some of the district officers of South Behar go so far as to say on 24th January, that if the crops then on the ground continued to do well, there would be no fear of famine in Patna, or in Gya, or in South Bhaugulpore, or in any part of Monghyr except a corner of Jamooee. The Magistrate-Collector of Shahabad expects, also, that if things continue to do as well as they are now doing, there will be no severe famine in his district, though there will be need for ample relief works, and perhaps for charitable relief in parts of the highlands of the district.

In South Behar.

But in North Behar matters are unhappily much worse. In three subdivisions of Tirhoot, in the north of Chumparun and north of Bhaugulpore, in a part of Sarun, in certain tracts of Purneah and Monghyr, more keen distress is now beginning, and famine would certainly appear within a very few weeks unless we can stave it off. In Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr, people are coming to the relief works in large numbers; in three districts Government grain is beginning to be sold on the works; at one or two places the people are reported to be alarmed and to be much pinched; and a beginning has to be made of distributing charitable relief. The reports received make it clear that the condition of these tracts is extremely critical, and that relief works must be provided, and Government grain must be pushed into these parts as fast and as largely as means permit.

In North Behar.

The condition of a part of Jamooee in Monghyr, and of parts of Purneah, is hardly any better. Severe distress in these tracts, if not famine, is very near at hand. In the Dinagepore, Maldah, Rajshahye, Rungpore, and Bogra Districts, despite excessive failure of the rice crop, supplies are for the present sufficient, and actual keen distress has not yet appeared. The condition of all these districts, except perhaps Dinagepore, has become, since the rains, better than had been feared. The Rungpore District has much benefited by the rain; early crops are being sown, and it is hoped that it may fare tolerably. Regarding parts of Dinagepore, however, the Lieutenant-Governor is still very anxious.

On the whole, there seems now good hope that many districts where the crops greatly failed, and regarding which much apprehension has been entertained, may escape actual famine. There will, however, be high prices everywhere; and the Lieutenant-Governor is much afraid lest high prices and scarcity might produce very bad effects in parts of the country where there is a large population of landless laborers barely removed from actual penury at the best of times.

Relief works.

15. The district narratives give some account of the works that are going on, and in separate enclosures will be found the latest returns of laborers employed on the relief works. The number of laborers employed per diem is about 33,000 in Sarun, where very full and timely arrangements for relief works have been made; in Dinagepore, a district ordinarily very destitute of laborers, 14,000 people are employed besides the laborers on the Northern Bengal Railway. In Chumparun 12,700 laborers are at work, besides those on the Gunduck embankment. In Tirhoot there has been some deficiency of works, but 17,200 people are employed on Government and private relief works. There are 4,000 laborers employed in Monghyr, and the same number in Bhaugulpore. In Purneah, though there are plenty of works ready, laborers do not seek employment, and as yet there are only 800 people on the relief works. In Chumparun and Purneah only does any large proportion of the work-people belong to the cultivating classes who do not usually work upon the roads. In Purneah, though very high prices prevail and keen distress is believed to be felt in parts of the

district, few people come to the relief works. In Tirhoot there was at first some failure to provide sufficient works and some want of sufficient system on the works; but this, it is hoped, has now been remedied, the Commissioner having taken up the subject as soon as it came to his notice. In Sarun, Chumparun, and Dinagepore, on the other hand, very ample work has been found for the people who want it.

Tank-digging as relief work.

16. In the part of the Monghyr District where distress prevails and is expected, the difficulty has already been felt that great embanked roads carried athwart the drainage may do harm, if (as is too probable) funds cannot be found to bridge them. In default of such roads it is not possible to find sufficient other road-work to employ the population which we expect to have on our relief works. The Commissioner and the local officers represent that there are in almost every village old tanks which have not been cleaned out for a generation, and the excavation of which would be the very best relief work, and would also confer a great and lasting benefit on the villagers. The difficulty, however, arises that the relief funds as yet given are in aid of the district road fund, which is intended exclusively for the improvement of roads and waterways; and it seems doubtful whether public money of this kind ought to be spent on improving private properties and lands. The question of the best way of providing funds for works of this class was submitted to the Government of India, and it was suggested that at the present emergency the local officers should be permitted to undertake tank-works when none else were available, and to settle in each case with the zemindars and the people what share they should contribute to the work. Meanwhile the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was instructed to go to the spot to find out what other works he could; and he was told that no workmen must be sent away, and that if no other works could be found village tanks might be undertaken.

The Commissioner of Patna made a similar reference on the same point, and he meanwhile had authorised the Magistrate-Collectors of very distressed districts to begin tank-works if they found it necessary so to do. The list of works appended to the Sarun narrative contains many tank-works. The Lieutenant-Governor has much considered the question of spending public money on improving tanks on private property, and he believes that such works will have to be undertaken.

Funds for relief works.

17. It appeared to the Lieutenant-Governor that the funds at the disposal of the district committees for relief works were becoming insufficient; applications for further grants were received from some districts; and there was the additional consideration that by striking off ferry and road tolls, and by partially suspending the road cess, the means of district committees had been much reduced, just as there was very special need for them to spend largely on relief works. Even in districts where there had been no very grave failure of crops, prices would be very high, the laboring classes might have a hard time, and it would be very unadvisable that committees should from want of funds be obliged to stint local works. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor reviewed the position of all districts, and gave large special grants to the distressed and partially-distressed districts. The text of the orders issued upon this matter will be found enclosed. When making these special grants the Lieutenant-Governor said:—"It will be understood that these grants are for the road cess year 1873-74; that if further grants are required for real relief work, they will be given on timely application being made.

"The total grants made from the provincial funds for the current year will thus be—

	Rs.
Ordinary grants made on the 1st October, as per column 3 of the annexed statement	9,90,000
Amount of debit balances written off as grants, as per paragraph 2 of the present orders	1,83,127
Amount of special grants-in-aid of relief works, as per column 4 of the annexed statement *	14,45,000
TOTAL ...	26,18,127

Out of this total of Rs. 26,18,000, about 16¼ lakhs will be expenditure consequent upon the unhappy failure of the crops in Behar and Bengal."

Wages on relief works.

A note has been drawn up by Colonel Nicolls, Chief Engineer, upon the labor returns, up to the 10th January. The practical result of the comparisons instituted by Colonel Nicolls is, that in North Behar, wages are low and laborers bring their women and children to the roads; while in the Rajshahye Division wages are high, and it is quite contrary to usage for laborers to bring their women and children to work. From a relief point of view, this result is satisfactory in that a family in Behar, even with the low rate of wages there obtaining, earns more than a family in Rungpore, but then the number of bread-winners in a family is much larger in the one case than in the other.

Advances to private parties.

18. Planters and zemindars on the Patna Division are continuing to take advances for the purchase of grain for distribution to their ryots. But there is in many districts much unreadiness to take advances for landed improvements. In the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions, and in the districts of Sarun, Chumparun, and Monghyr, people are coming forward for land improvement advances very freely; but in the rest of Behar and in the Rajshahye Division they are backward. The Commissioner of Rajshahye has reported that in Moorshedabad many people would undertake tank-works from their own funds, if Government would bear one-third of the cost just as it does at the present season, in the case of works executed from advances. The Lieutenant-Governor has gladly agreed to this concession, subject to the proviso that the works to be executed are to be really works of public utility to the whole village.

Advances to ryots.

19. In previous narratives reference was made to a despatch in which His Excellency the Viceroy, after his tour in Behar, drew attention to the desirability of advancing funds to zemindars who would undertake to give advances of money or grain to their ryots. It was at the time suggested that, if need be, the legislature should be asked to compel landlords to recover such advances from their ryots. The Commissioners were invited to suggest the best means of meeting the difficulty. Mr Barlow, of Bhaugulpore, alone recommended special legislation. Meanwhile the question pressed for solution, and the Magistrate of Rungpore specially urged that such advances to ryots should be allowed, and that for the purposes of such advances jotedars (many of whom are holders of sub-tenures with ryots under them), should be treated as zemindars. The Lieutenant-Governor, after reviewing what had passed, held that under His Excellency the Viceroy's orders, all putneedars, jotedars, and others holding a permanent interest in the land might be reckoned as zemindars for the purpose of these advances; and he decided that the direct advance of money or grain to ryots in specially distressed tracts should be treated as a question of relief under clause (*f*) of the instructions defining the duties of sub-divisional relief committees.

Instructions to relief committees.

20. At a conference at Government House on the 24th January, general instructions for the guidance of relief committees were settled.* They give much latitude and leave much discretion to the committees. The sub-divisional committee is made the working unit, and on each sub-divisional committee is thrown the very grave responsibility of seeing that every village within its jurisdiction receives such relief as it requires. Discretion is given to sub-divisional committees to advance money or grain to persons whose caste or usages prevent them going to public relief works; permission is given to institute minor village relief works, or to provide, through village headmen, in-door work, such as spinning or weaving; and authority is given to relief committees to sell Government grain to the people if the Collector approves. This last provision is so fenced that the committee's action cannot, if the instructions are observed, act in restraint of trade, for the committees are not to begin selling until there is an absolute deficiency of grain in the neighbourhood; they are to effect their sales through the local traders, and they are to cease selling as soon as the local trade receives supplies. The general rules are to be supplemented by more detailed rules settled by the central relief committee in communication with the Government of Bengal.

* Those instructions were subsequently revised. See p. 114, para. 30, of Thirteenth Special Narrative

Central Relief Committee at Calcutta.

21. On Wednesday, the 4th February, a public meeting was held in Calcutta at which His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and it was decided that a central relief committee, consisting of some 159 Native and European members, should be appointed to direct operations of charitable relief and to collect subscriptions: with that object the committee were directed at once to commence operations in communication with the Government of Bengal. The central committee appointed an executive committee, consisting of the gentlemen marginally noted, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble V. H. Schalch. Subscriptions towards the relief fund, to the amount of Rs. 65,000 were announced by His Excellency the Viceroy and by the Lieutenant-Governor at the meeting, and before the meeting separated a total sum of Rs. 1,23,000 had been promised. A copy of the report of the proceedings of the meeting will be submitted with next narrative.

Chariman.
Hon'ble V. H. Schalch.
Members.
Hon'ble J. Inglis, C.S.I.
" R. H. Dalyell.
" H. H. Sutherland.
" Digamber Mitter.
" T. M. Robinson.
" C. Bernard.
J. R. Bullen-Smith, Esq.
Moonshee Ameer Ali, Khan Bahadoor.
Baboo Doorga Churn Law.

Relief committees in the interior.

22. In the distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Purneah relief committees have already begun to act, and committees have been nominated for all the districts of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions. Charitable relief on a large scale will not, it is hoped, be required for some time to come south of the Ganges, except in the afflicted corner of South Monghyr. In Mozufferpore a meeting was held, and Rs. 35,000 were subscribed for relief purposes; in Durbhanga Rs. 15,000 were subscribed. In Chumparun relief is to be given through the agency of planters, who will give to indigent people unable to work tickets entitling them to fifteen days' food from the Government store. In Tirhoot considerable sums have already been placed at the disposal of the sub-divisional committees for expenditure on gunny-weaving, spinning, and other in-door work for women and non-laboring people through the agency of village headmen.

Burdwan Division.

23. As regards the Burdwan Division the further reports received show that, while there is no immediate excessive deficiency of grain, and in case such should occur the railways and waterways give great facilities, the really pressing need is to provide a sufficiency of relief works to employ the people till the agricultural operations of another season commence. It is a good feature of the case that in this division many applications for advances for private works have been made, and the Commissioner has been strongly urged to see that, as regards public relief works, the provision made is complete. No doubt a good deal of charitable relief will be eventually necessary, more especially in the fever tracts, and in connection with the classes of people who have been reduced in their bodies and their means by inability to work through sickness. A special inquiry was ordered into the general condition of the people of these tracts some months ago, and the Commissioner has been again directed to give immediate personal attention to its early completion, and to visit and report exactly the state of things as they now exist.

In some parts of Beerbhoom a commencement has already been made of charitable relief. From Burdwan the local reports are as yet not very gloomy, and the Maharaja of Burdwan may be relied upon to help effectively should charitable relief be called for. Meantime the organisation of committees is being prepared and works are provided. The Hooghly reports are somewhat alarming, but there is reason to believe that the Collector has not sufficiently discriminated between those parts of his district where things are bad and other parts where the crops were fair, and the people are tolerably well off. The Howrah portion of this district especially is reported by the Magistrate in charge to be in very good case with certain partial exceptions. The Hooghly Collector has been told to provide work wherever required, and for food-supply the situation of a district lying, as this does, on the highways of river and rail traffic ought not to be at all critical. In fact, exportation is still going on from all the districts of the Burdwan Division. The jungle tracts of Midnapore, which were at one time deemed

very badly off, are now more favorably reported on by the Commissioner. The Court of Wards and the Messrs. Watson are doing much here to provide work for the indigent. On the whole, the division of Burdwan lies so open to the operations of private trade, and contains so many intelligent native residents, that there is no great danger at present in leaving it to be supplied in that way, and in confining Government operations to relief works and aiding the establishment of relief committees.

Palamow Sub-division.

24. In previous narratives it had been stated that the Palamow Sub-division of Lohardugga had suffered grievously in recent famines, and that the crops of 1873 had failed. Colonel Dalton, the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, has now marched through Palamow; he reports that there is cause for anxiety; that relief works must be freely undertaken; that the landholders and village chiefs are doing a great deal themselves both to undertake works and to import grain for the consumption of their people. Colonel Dalton considers that some small quantity of grain should be imported and stored on the works to supplement the local supply; he has also stored fodder along the supply-routes. A special grant of funds has been made for Palamow relief works, and the Government of India has agreed to a small quantity of grain being procured from Lohardugga and stored on the relief works. Since Colonel Dalton's letter was written, rain has fallen in Palamow and matters may improve. The Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom also proposed that a large quantity of Government grain should be stored at the Barakur for his district. As the distressed tract is close to the railway and the need is not emergent, Colonel Dalton's views upon the matter are awaited. No other part of the Chota Nagpore Division gives present cause for anxiety.

Irrigation and embankment works.

25. The number of workmen on the Gunduck Embankments is said to be daily increasing. By the last reports there were 680 laborers on the upper embankment in Chumparun and 1,438 on the lower. On the Chumparun works rice was selling at from 9 to 10 seers per rupee. On a part of the lower embankment men are now being employed on daily wages at the Magistrate's request. It is found that petty contractors cannot afford to and will not employ weakly laborers. As distress becomes more general, it will be necessary to set apart one or more lengths of each work for work-people who cannot do a full day's work. The obligation to do this is fully recognised by all Public Works officers, but there is difficulty in getting subordinates to act promptly in accordance therewith.

Soane Canal.

26. The area watered by the Soane Canal has risen to 157,548 acres, besides the land which the people were able to irrigate with water let into the Poonpoon river from the Soane Canal. In consequence of the heavy rain on the 1st and 2nd February, the sluice-gates at the head of the canal had to be shut in case freshes might come down the Soane and flood the country. There had been some discussion whether the water could now be shut off for the rest of the season without injury to the food-crops; if it could be shut off, then the canal works could go on, and regular methodical irrigation could be possible next June; if it could not be shut off, then the masonry work could not go on, and irrigation might be postponed for another season. The local officer's view seemed to be that, if the village channels (pynes as they are called) and reservoirs had been filled, the water might now be shut off. The Irrigation Department reports that the village tanks and channels have been filled, the timely rain of the last ten days has secured the spring crops in Shahabad, and so the canal head can be safely closed and the masonry works allowed to proceed.

Kana Nuddee work.

27. A report has been made by the Commissioner of the great benefit which has been done to a part of the Hooghly District by letting the Damooda water into the Kana Nuddee. The extracts quoted in Mr. Buckland's report show that for drinking-water, for watering cattle, and for irrigating root crops and pumpkins, the new water-supply will be of the greatest value to the villagers, along fifty miles of what used to be a dry river bed with occasional

stagnant pools of very dirty water. The cost of the Kana Nuddee works, hitherto executed, has been very little over Rs. 12,000. Projects for opening out other channels, and leading Damooda water into them on a much larger scale and at a cost of some lakhs of rupees, have been laid before the Government of India. One difficulty is that these works, which will very greatly improve the value of large permanently-settled estates, cannot be expected to be directly remunerative to Government.

Northern Bengal Railway.

28. The progress on the Northern Bengal Railway works up to the 24th January was as follows. Fifty miles of side widths were set out, the land for the railway is being made over as fast as it is required, and the procedure required by the Land Acquisition Act, for settling the compensation, is being complied with as rapidly and completely as possible. 150,000 cubic feet of earthwork had been completed, 1,300 laborers were on the work up to the 17th January, and many more had come since that date. Wages are paid in money every three days, and the work-people supply their own food from the local bazars. Arrangements for brick-making are being pushed on, and coal for burning bricks on the ten miles nearest the Ganges has been contracted for. Ninety-four miles of the telegraph line from Julpigoree southwards had been set up, and will be at work in a few days. The demand for labor on the central length is active; elsewhere there is no influx of local work-people. Rice has been stored in considerable quantity on the central section of the line. Major Lindsay reports that the river Atrai will be navigable during February and March for 50-maund boats up to Debeedoba (about the 140th mile on the line from the Ganges), and he is sending rice by that route. The Commissioner (Mr. Molony), reports this river route to be extremely tedious and uncertain, and he fears that a boat can only make one trip into the Upper Atrai in the season. The issue of Major Lindsay's experimental despatch up the river is awaited.

Emigration to Burmah.

29. The Government of India has set aside the sum of five lakhs of rupees (£50,000) to promote a system of State emigration from the distressed districts to British Burmah. The terms offered are a three years' engagement on wages of which the minimum is guaranteed to be, for men Rs. 10 each per mensem, for women Rs. 6, and for children of between 10 and 16 years of age Rs. 3. A deduction of one-fifth may be made from the above wage, and anything earned over and above it may also be deducted and credited to Government until the cost of the emigrant's passage has been recouped to the State. It is intended, however, that any sums thus recovered shall be expended in the same manner as the original State grant. A Superintendent of State Emigration has been appointed, and instructions have been given to the district officers to make the terms widely known not only to laborers, but to influential local men, who are invited to assist in inducing emigrants to come forward. District officers will at the same time exercise a discretion in selecting persons likely to prove useful colonists. Aged, sick, and infirm people will not be sent, unless their infirmity is one temporarily caused by privation and likely to pass away with proper care. The experiment will, it is hoped, prove advantageous to British Burmah, where the demand for laborers and colonists is yearly increasing.

Military officers for relief works.

30. In previous narratives it has been stated that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council had lent the services of Commissariat and of Staff Corps officers to help in grain transport and in relief work. Colonel Mackenzie, of the Commissariat, has organised a corps of railway coolies (station porters), to work the Patna stations, and he has, under the Commissioner, taken executive command of the transport service across the river Ganges and at the points of departure on the Ganges for North Behar. Lieutenant Eliot, also of the Commissariat, is at Rajmehal, and will take complete charge of the ferry and despatching of grain from the river *viâ* Maldah to Dinagepore, as soon as the train of carts is in regular working order. The Staff Corps officers are being employed in the districts of North Behar. And the Government of India has further been good enough to send Major Ker, of the Quarter-Master General's Department, to the Rajshahye Division, and

Captain Grant to Rajshahye, also to order Colonel Macgregor and Captain Trotter of the same Department to Patna. The Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders, explaining how these officers are to be employed in discovering and prospecting routes and in devising means of transport.

Additional officers for sub-divisions.

31. Now that so heavy a duty and responsibility will devolve upon sub-divisional officers in connection with charitable relief and the prosecution of relief works, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to send a second officer to each really distressed sub-division, who should take the magisterial and ordinary work off the shoulders of the sub-divisional officer, besides giving such special assistance as may be required in the circumstances of each case. This has now been done for all the very distressed sub-divisions of the Patna Division, and it is being done for the sub-divisions of Bhaugulpore. The staff of officers in the Dinagepore District has also been largely increased, as in that large district there are as yet no sub-divisions.

No. 11.

Eleventh Special Narrative of the Drought from the 5th to the 19th February 1874.

Weather and rain-fall.

During the week ending the 11th February the weather continued to be very variable at the beginning of the fortnight. Rain fell over and above what was recorded in last Narrative to some extent in Bengal and slightly in parts of Behar, and some days later there was another fall in parts of Bengal. About the 9th February the weather cleared in Behar, where it has since been clear and very seasonable. But it was not till the 12th to 14th that the weather cleared up in Bengal. The Meteorological Reporter to Government writes of Calcutta, that "up to the 14th of February, the weather generally close and cloudy, and the wind easterly. Rain fell on several days and was general over the country. At Calcutta nearly 4 inches were registered between the 1st and 14th, making, with what had fallen in January, a total of 4·69 inches since the beginning of the year. The average quantity for the same period is one inch. The clouds cleared away on the 14th, after a thunder-storm accompanied by some hail, and a cool land wind set in from north-west, and has continued steadily in that quarter, bringing a return of the cold weather and clear, cloudless skies."

It was specially fortunate that from the 9th February, or thereabouts, the weather in Behar was clear and dry, for sunshine was greatly wanted to bring out the full good done by the rain of the beginning of February, and to ripen the more valuable of the spring grains. In Bengal, where there is but little wheat and barley, and where the spring rice (*boro dhan*), small millet (*cheena*), and root crops are of much importance, the continuance of damp weather till the 14th did rather good than harm. Very little hail fell—indeed its appearance was chronicled only in parts of Nuddea, Rungpore, and Mymensing; no hail is reported from Behar, where its coming was chiefly feared. The rain fell in a soft and beneficial manner—eminently beneficial to all crops in tracts where there were crops to be benefited. The rainfall of Bengal (Central, Western, and Eastern) ranged from 2 to 5¼ inches during the first fourteen days of February, and averaged quite 2½ inches over the whole of Bengal proper; while in Behar, where excessive rain would have done much harm, the total fall averaged about an inch and a half.

Price of grain.

2. Notwithstanding the beneficial rainfall recorded in last Narrative, and the general improvement in the state of the crops on the ground and in the prospects of the crop to come, there has been a general, though not very great, rise in prices during the fortnight. The only exception is the Rajshahye Division, over almost the whole of which there has been some slight fall in prices. In some places high prices are attributed to the difficulty of getting grain to market owing to the rain.

The prices now quoted in the principal districts compare with those quoted last fortnight as follows :—

	Number of seers sold for a rupee.	
	On 31st January.	On 14th February
Burdwan	14	13
Beerbhoom	12⅜	12
Hooghly	11 & 12	10 & 10½
Calcutta	12½	12½
Dinagepore	13¼	14
Maldah	11¾	12½
Backergunge	16½	13½
Chittagong	18	17
Noakhally	17½	16
Patna	12	13
Shahabad	13	11¾
Tirhoot	10	10
Chumparun	11¾	11¼
Bhaugulpore	12⅜	11¼
Lohardugga	15½	16
Maunbhoom	15½	14½

There has been a rise in the exporting districts of East Bengal; and the rise has been felt in the Calcutta market, where, according to the reports of the Chamber of Commerce, the demand for export has been less brisk. Purneah is the only district whence very high prices are quoted, and there the price of common rice has risen to 8 seers per rupee. From the published prices current no general rise in the price of maize and the lesser millets is apparent, except in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Some of the narratives, however, say that the supply of these grains is being exhausted. The very high price in Purneah does not seem to have driven people to the relief works, nor is any general severe distress reported from that district as yet. Either the people must be busy with their spring crops, which promise well, and are fairly abundant in Purneah, or they must be in better circumstances than ordinary Behar ryots.

Supply of grain.

3. The supply of grain at all the large marts is fairly sufficient, except in the worst tracts of North Behar, where it is difficult to get grain in either large or small quantities at the prices quoted. In South Behar and in parts of Purneah private trade in grain is active, and a good deal of grain moves from place to place. The imports of grain into the Patna and Shahabad Districts continue to be very large. About 1,000 tons of private grain a day comes into Behar by railway from the North-West, and about 500 tons a day go up from Calcutta into Behar. The private grain carried into Behar is thus about 1,500 tons a day from both ends, or equal to 45,000 tons (12,50,000 maunds) a month, provided the private imports continue at this rate.

Exports of grain.

4. The total export of grain during the fortnight from Bengal ports to places beyond the sea was, so far as returns are available, 17,355 tons. The extreme activity of the export trade seems thus to have somewhat lulled. The total exports of food-grains from Bengal from the 1st November 1873, up to date, has been 143,333 tons, and 163,035 tons from the 1st October. Since the scarcity began Government importations (reckoning what is still in the river and has not yet been taken over) have been 69,900 tons from beyond the sea. Private importations of grain during the same period have now risen to 8,557 tons, of which the bulk came during the month of January. The usual note upon the movement of food-grains is forwarded.

Condition of the people.

5. The condition of the people everywhere, except in the very distressed parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Dinagepore, and Maldah, may be said to be somewhat more hopeful than it was, according to the information received since the submission of last Narrative. The rainfall which, though somewhat late, did immense good, has improved the crops and revived the drooping spirits of the people. From nearly all districts it is reported that the people have been enabled to prepare their lands for next crop, or to sow the quick-growing, though precarious millets, which are so much eaten by the poor, while in several Bengal Districts the *boro* or early spring rice-crop has already been sown. The fear of

a water famine has disappeared for the present, and, so far as the reports show, the cattle are as yet in very good case. Even from the bad parts of Sarun, Purneah, and Monghyr, where distress and need for relief has been for some weeks felt, there would seem to be some temporary improvement in the condition of the people—at any rate famine does not seem in those tracts to be nearer than it was a fortnight ago, though the number of laborers, especially of people of the middle classes, has on the Sarun relief works very greatly increased, and want is felt by people of the outcast tribes in South Monghyr.

In the worst parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhagulpore, on the other hand, the condition of the people is perceptibly worse than it was a fortnight ago. In Tirhoot, vagrancy, begging, and crime is increasing; child desertion has begun; signs of want and suffering can be seen on persons who come to the relief works, and occasional visits to out-of-the-way villages show that the women and children are in places suffering severely from want. From the worst part of Chumparun it is reported that even the ryots will soon be without food supplies, while the condition of the lowest classes is said to be in some places very nearly approaching absolute want. Against these very bad reports may be set the fact that distress is being met and relieved effectually everywhere. In Sarun nearly 70,000 people are employed on the relief works of one kind and another. Charitable relief has begun in Chumparun and Monghyr, and is being commenced in Tirhoot, Purneah, and Maldah. As yet no cases of real starvation are reported, but some ascertained cases of death from sickness, caused or intensified by insufficiency of food, are said to have occurred. It seems to be a prevalent opinion that if Government relief works had not been opened thus early, and if Government had not imported grain, there would have been very much misery, and there might have been starvation before now. From Dinagepore the Magistrate is able to report that, after a tour through the worst parts of the district, he did not "come across any instances of actual want, that is, of a person without food or the means of obtaining any."

The rain there was heavier, and has done more good than in North Tirhoot, and the ryots are richer and better able to tide over very hard times. The careful enquiries made by the District Magistrate during his tour bear out the previous reports that over very large tracts of Dinagepore there had been very little rice crop, and there is hardly any spring food-crop in those parts of the district till the spring rice comes in. The Magistrate found the condition of the people had "become on the whole worse in the bad parts and better in the less distressed quarters." From limited parts of Maldah also it is reported that distress is already much felt, that owing to the absence of rich residents, local charity does not suffice, and that in the north of the district some hundreds of people are in receipt of relief from the charitable funds collected at the district head-quarters.

On the whole it may be said generally, as Mr. Lowis has said for Dinagepore, that in the very distressed tracts want is intensifying into famine; while in the districts where there was a less complete failure and cold weather crops were sown, the crops and the prospects of the people are in better condition than they were a fortnight ago. The scarcity is becoming more and more localized.

Sir Richard Temple's work in Behar.

6. Sir Richard Temple's deputation to Behar has borne much good fruit, and the result of his operations will be noticed before proceeding to the ordinary topics of the Narrative. It was stated in last Narrative that he had inspected the principal grain-receiving stations of the East Indian Railway, made some short stay at, and inspected Patna, and the stations for receipt and despatch of grain, and that he had gone on into the most distressed parts of Tirhoot. He has since visited the more distressed parts of Tirhoot; he has travelled into the furthest and most distressed parts of Chumparun; has been through the worst parts of Sarun and Patna, where he met the Bhaugulpore officers. He has now gone back to visit again and arrange relief measures in North-East Tirhoot, and the Bhaugulpore Sub-division of Soopole, where suffering is said to be already upon some classes of the people.

Tirhoot District.

7. According to the Minutes in which Sir Richard Temple summarizes his views regarding the three districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun, he found the condition of the people in the three northern sub-divisions to be bad; he accepted

the estimate of the local officers, that nearly one-half the population of these tracts (or close upon one million of people) would be upon the hands of Government. He considered that to supply them four millions of maunds (about 148,000 tons) of Government grain would be required before the rains, and that arrangements ought to be made for five millions of maunds so as to provide against misadventure. He sanctioned arrangements whereby local contractors were to carry 2,00,000 maunds (about 7,400 tons) a week into the north-east of Tirhoot; he called for tenders from the North-Western Provinces to carry a further amount; and he very strongly urged the immediate construction of a tramway from Chumpta Ghât (opposite the Barrh station of the East Indian Railway) to Durbhanga, and beyond Durbhanga into the Madhobunee and Seetamarhee sub-divisions. The proposed line of tramway has been examined by Mr. Molesworth, the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, who recommends that a light railway, to be worked by engine-power, should at once be laid down from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhanga, a distance of 44 miles. The Government of India has ordered the work to be taken in hand at once on the mètre gauge; the roadway to carry the line will be put in order by Mr. Stevens, the Durbanga Engineer; a full staff of engineers, plate-layers, and subordinates has been ordered down from the Delhi State Railway; they are to be ready to take the field at once; material is being sent up to Barrh, and nothing is left undone that can secure the early completion of the line. The Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner so to arrange the carrying power of the country as to lift the railway material promptly, with as little hindrance as may be to the grain transport along the route which the railway takes.

8. Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 5th February shows the orders he has given for organizing relief committees in the distressed parts of Tirhoot. The most afflicted tracts are divided into circles containing about 100 square miles of country; at a convenient site in the middle of each circle a temporary house is being erected, whereat is to be lodged the European officer charged with relief operations, who will be responsible for constantly inspecting and relieving all the villages of his circle. For some of the circles the entire superintendence of relief operations will be entrusted to planters, who have liberally and cordially offered their services for the work.

The Lieutenant-Governor has fully accepted and acted on all Sir Richard Temple's arrangements for Tirhoot. He had only doubted whether relief on so very liberal a scale was within the means of Government, and no doubt if the estimates for other districts had been at all in the same proportion as that for Tirhoot, the quantity of grain required would have been far larger than that for which the Government of India has yet arranged, and larger than the railway could transport to the neighbourhood of the distressed country. The estimates for the other districts being, however, more moderate, the quantity required for Tirhoot may be supplied from Calcutta and the North-Western Provinces together, if we can only manage sufficient transport into the interior. Now that the distress becomes more localized, we can do more for the especially distressed tracts than could have been done if there had been a more far extending need for large relief. The population of the most distressed tract of North Behar, in the districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, is about three and a half millions (say something more than the population of Orissa) for whom it is proposed to provide about six millions maunds of grain, say 225,000 tons. It may possibly not be beyond the means of a great Government to feed such a population.

Chumparun District.

9. From North Tirhoot Sir Richard Temple travelled along the Nepaul border, and then turned southwards into Chumparun; he visited the district head-quarters, the sub-divisional station of Bettiah, as well as the remote and very distressed pergunnah of Ramnuggur. He expressed satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made. He found that relief works were abundant and well managed; that the grain transport operations were well forward, and that a good deal of most useful relief had been administered by Mr. Thomas Gibbon, now agent to the Bettiah Rajah, whose good service has been previously brought to notice. Sir Richard Temple found that the condition of the extreme north of Chumparun was very bad, but that to the south

of the district matters were much better; and he accepts the estimate of the local officers that on an average about 217,000 people will be in one way or another on the hands of Government for eight months, or 400,000 in the worst times. He estimates that one million maunds of grain will be required for their relief; and he has accepted the arrangement under which 50,000 maunds of Government grain per week are being sent up to Patna for despatch to Chumparun. He found that the local carriage contractors would probably be able to fulfil their engagement to carry this amount weekly, as there was an abundance of carts in the district. Sir Richard Temple expressed his belief that water carriage by the Gunduck river, though a resource of some importance when the snows melt and the river rises a little, was not secure enough to warrant the abandonment of land carriage. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted all Sir Richard Temple's plans for Chumparun, and has suggested that, if the spring crops turn out well, Chumparun might draw some supplies from Oude and the North-Western Provinces, *viâ* Durowlee Ghât on the Gogra. Arrangements for the administration of charitable relief, similar to those described in the next preceding paragraph, were made by Sir Richard Temple for North Chumparun; and the latest Chumparun narrative shows that the Ramnuggur relief-houses may open with a large attendance of paupers.

Sarun District.

10. In his Minute of the 12th February Sir Richard Temple considers the condition of Sarun to be much less critical than Tirhoot or Chumparun, though even in Sarun there are tracts where, owing to a succession of bad years, the people are very badly off, and much relief will have to be given. Sir Richard Temple found that the Sarun arrangements for meeting and relieving distress by means of works were good; and he noted that nearly 70,000 persons, many of them women and children, were employed on the relief works (public and private) on the 10th February. He ascertained that private importations into Sarun were going on to a considerable extent, and that the local traders there were much more active than in either Tirhoot or Chumparun. He accepted the local officers' estimate that about 200,000 people in Sarun might be upon the hands of Government, and that 5,00,000 maunds of Government grain, besides 1,80,000 maunds provided by the Hutwa Estate, would be required for the relief of the people. He arranged that out of this a supply of 5,000 maunds daily should be sent from Calcutta to Arrah (in preference to the routes hitherto followed), whence it could be crossed over into and distributed throughout Sarun. Carts for the transport of grain within the district were plentiful. The measures arranged by Sir Richard Temple are being carried out, and 5,000 maunds of grain have been despatched daily to Arrah since the 12th February.

Distress in Nepaul.

11. As he travelled along the Nepaul frontier, Sir Richard Temple's attention was directed to the distress among the people across the Tirhoot border. It appeared that there was risk of grave distress there, and Sir Richard Temple suggested that the Government should help the Nepaul Durbar to import food for their distressed subjects. The Lieutenant-Governor, when submitting the question to the Government of India, expressed his opinion that distressed Nepaulese should be received at our works, relieved by our charity, and treated at our hospitals just as British subjects, and that no distinction could be made between applicants for aid on whichever side of the border they happened to dwell. The Government of India accepted this view, and at the same time offered the Nepaul Durbar 1,000 tons of Government rice at cost price, provided the Nepaulese would carry it away from the Patna Railway.

12. The subject of advances to ryots was discussed in previous Narratives. The matter has again been considered, and the orders of this Government provide that advances of money, grain, or seed are to be made liberally to ryots on Government Estates and Wards' Estates; that every effort is to be used to make such advances through zemindars or on their responsibility, and that in any case where zemindars will not be answerable, or where ryots can offer no security, either advances of money and grain may be made by the relief committees (under Part II, clause *(o)*, of the Instructions), or special report must be made in order that Government may, in case of absolute neces-

sity, undertake the duty which the landholders, for special reasons, are unable to perform.

Medical aid for relief centres.

13. A Minute by Sir Richard Temple upon the number of medical officers and medical subordinates which will be required in the Patna Division is forwarded. From the report of the Medical Department and the Lieutenant-Governor's orders thereon, it will be seen that two surgeons are under orders, one for Tirhoot and one for Chumparun; that 25 native doctors have either arrived or are about to arrive in the distressed districts; that 25 more are under orders to join, and that the Lieutenant-Governor has asked for a reserve of 15 native doctors. The requisite complement of compounders, and the necessary supply of medicines is also being furnished for each relief hospital or dispensary.

Fodder for transport.

14. Sir Richard Temple's orders and requisitions for fodder from the North-Western Provinces are appended. Experiment is to be made whether rice dust, which is available from Burmah, can be usefully imported for feeding cattle. Arrangements are also made, and being made, for carrying fodder, and for sending spare carts and cartwrights along with each train of carts; for maintaining the traffic routes in order; for putting up bridges-of-boats, and for promptly paying the carters where large contractors are not employed. The rates of hire for carts have also been raised considerably on most of the cart routes.

15. With a view to increasing the efficiency of the cart trains, Sir Richard Temple has applied for the services of a veterinary surgeon and two assistants to look after the bullocks on the cart routes; and the suggestion has been submitted for the favorable consideration of the Government of India.

Bhaugulpore Division.

16. Sir Richard Temple has not yet reported what supply of Government grain he considers to be required for North Bhaugulpore and Purneah. But he expects that the despatches hitherto made will have to be largely increased, and he has proposed to buy and to hire further means of transport from the North-Western Provinces. A late telegram from Mr. Hankey, however, informs the Lieutenant-Governor that he hopes to provide a sufficiency of carriage from local resources.

17. It will have been seen from the foregoing paragraphs that Sir Richard Temple has, with the utmost activity and energy, visited the more distressed tracts of the Patna Division. He has discussed with the local officers the condition of affairs on the spot; he has decided all questions as they arose with a promptitude and clearness which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot sufficiently acknowledge.

Private trade in the South Behar Districts.

18. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that it may not prove necessary very largely to increase the allotments of Government grain for South Behar; he trusts that these comparatively accessible districts may be supplied by private trade. The late rains have secured a good spring crop in the North-Western Provinces and most parts of Oudh; there is every prospect of another abundant harvest in the Punjab; 1,500 tons of grain per diem are being brought into Behar by private importers; everybody is agreed that the Patna dealers have now got large stores of grain which they hesitate to carry into North Behar. If Government refrains from further importations into South Behar, except for the bare supply of laborers on works, and for occasional charitable relief, and if the carriage of these districts is left sufficiently free for private trade, we may, it is hoped for the present, leave the main supply of those districts to private trade. If matters unhappily grow worse, these districts are accessible, and the Government can at the end send up more grain for their relief. In the papers enclosed will be found an account of the arrangements which the Magistrate-Collector of Monghyr is, wisely as the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, making to leave full room for the operations of private trade.

Despatches of Government grain from Calcutta.

19. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight have been 6,10,379 maunds, of which 1,01,813 maunds were for the Rajshahye Division, and the rest was for Behar. The total quantity of Government grain sent into the distressed districts up to date has been over 26,00,000 maunds, or

close upon 100,000 tons. Now that so much Government grain is coming into Calcutta, and the transport arrangements in the district are more complete, a much greater strain is being put upon the East Indian Railway, which carries supplies to Behar. During the last three weeks the railway has not been able to carry away daily all the grain which the Government wished: thus—

		The Government notified its wish to send off daily from Howrah.	The railway succeeded in carrying away daily.
		Mds.	Mds.
Week ending	1st February	... 33,428	25,572
„	8th „	... 34,714	30,946
„	15th „	... 60,000	about 38,000
„	22nd „	... 66,000	week not finished.

The railway have thus been able greatly and steadily to increase the supply of wagons for the Government grain; but still has as yet been unable to work up to our requirements, and as yet 52,000 maunds (about 1,900 tons) a day is the most it has taken in one day. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to be able to send away up to 3,000 tons a day, and has recommended that, if necessary, engines and wagons and drivers be borrowed from other lines of railway. The officials of the East Indian Railway have promoted the Government grain traffic in every way that they can, and some of their difficulties formerly arose from the delay in unloading wagons at up-country stations. The East Indian Railway, moreover, is doing a very large private trade, and is carrying about 2,200 tons of grain, seeds, and general goods from Allahabad downwards for private parties, besides an unusually brisk private trade from Calcutta. There was some fear, moreover, whether the supplies of Government rice available in Calcutta for immediate despatch would suffice to maintain the high rate of despatches required—in fact for the last three days the despatches from Calcutta have been less than should have been, owing to paucity of grain available for despatch. On this point also the Government of India was consulted. The despatches have certainly for some time past verged closely on the limit of the supplies, but it is believed that larger supplies will soon arrive from Burmah. The Government of India has promised to consult with the railway authorities, and to take such steps as may be required; and the Railway Agency has promised to try henceforth to carry away 2,500 tons of Government grain daily, and to attempt more if the Government officers can unload and carry it away from the railway stations. Already grave inconvenience has occurred because the despatches of grain to Patna at the beginning of the current week were insufficient to employ all the carriage which the contractors had provided. There is no doubt or difficulty about the Eastern Bengal Railway's carrying away for Government as much grain as need be sent by that line.

Transport across the Ganges.

20. Almost all of the very distressed tracts are on the north of the Ganges, while the railway stations are on the south, so that most of the Government grain, directly it is unloaded from the railway wagons, has to be put across the river. Beginning at the highest station on the river, 5,000 maunds a day is ferried across punctually, and without any hitch whatever, in native boats from Arrah for the supply of the Sarun District. From the new siding at the river-side below Patna 20,000 maunds a day can be ferried over, partly by a steamer and two flats, but mainly by native boats. At present there are plenty of native boats, and there is no hitch. It is feared that when the March winds blow, native boat ferries will become tedious; and unhappily the river may then be too low for river steamers to work across. Effort is being made to deepen the channel and to arrange for sending steamers of less draught to Patna. The Barrh Ghât Station has only just been opened; 16,000 maunds a day are to be sent thither, and ample steamer power is under orders for the ferry. The river is deep and the banks are good; report has just been received that the Barrh ferry station and arrangements are in complete order. The Monghyr Station despatches of Government grain had been stopped for two or three weeks, owing to a block

of private or rather Court of Wards' grain. But they will soon begin again, and there are sufficient native boats to carry from 2 to 3,000 maunds a day across to Khagareah on the Lesser Gunduck. From Sultangunge and Bhaugulpore, whence grain is crossed over for North Bhaugulpore, 4,000 maunds a day have been steadily ferried over in native boats, and the railway stations are reported to be clear from time to time. From Colgong 6,000 maunds a day is ferried over to Caragola by native boats, and the Superintendent of Police in charge of the service has asked that 8,000 maunds a day may be sent to him, as he can cross the whole of that quantity during the present favorable months. From Sahibgunge to Caragola the railway carries over daily 4,000 maunds. For the ferry which serves the road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore, a steamer, one flat, and native boats fully suffice to carry away the 1,000 to 1,200 maunds daily despatched by cart to Dinagepore. At Kooshtea two steamers and four flats are engaged in ferrying rice from the Eastern Bengal Railway station; and there is also an abundance of native boats, which, however, take a very long time (about a day for every eight miles) in beating up the Ganges to Godagaree and Rampore Beauleah. The arrangements at Kooshtea are able to put across over 3,00,000 maunds (about 11,000 tons) a month, and would do more if Government required. From Goalundo Government grain is sent by steamers up to Kaleegunge in Rungpore, and to Shahazadpore in Bogra; and a small amount of grain is despatched weekly from Goalundo up the Burrul, and by water into the south of the Dinagepore District. Thus far therefore the ferry arrangements are ample. The Commissioner of Patna has, however, applied for three more steamers with flats to work the Barrh ferry, where a quantity of railway material will have to be crossed for the Durbhanga Railway. The Government orders show that the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged for complying with these demands.

Carriage into the interior: Patna Division.

21. The arrangements for carting grain into the interior have, in the Patna Division at any rate, been expanded so as to deal sufficiently with the very much larger importations of Government grain now going forward. For the Tirhoot District arrangements have been made with large contractors who engage to carry 2,00,000 maunds weekly (or upwards of 1,000 tons a day) into the interior; the rates of hire are very high, being seven annas (close upon one shilling) per ton per mile, or three pie per maund per mile. A similar contract has been made for carrying 50,000 maunds into North Chumparun, and 50,000 maunds are being carried weekly into Sarun. Sir Richard Temple has found that these transport contractors have begun well and are working regularly. Other reports show that the grain is cleared away from the Behar Stations as rapidly as it arrives. For the interior of Patna, Gya, and Shahabad, and for the Soane Canal works the available carriage is very ample for the conveyance of all the Government grain allotted to those districts. But during the last week or so some of this carriage must have been lying idle, as the railway could not carry up enough grain to supply all districts. The Lieutenant-Governor has issued instructions to district officers to pay full demurrage for all carts and boats that are detained, so that none of the available carriage may be dispersed.

Bhaugulpore Division.

22. In the Monghyr District the grain stores are comparatively near to the railway; and every maund of Government grain that has yet been sent for Monghyr has been carted away as it arrived, and is now in store. The carriage arrangements of North Bhaugulpore and Purneah have now been very carefully inspected by Mr. Hankey, who found some want of organization, has given orders for setting right, and has stayed to see those orders fully carried out. The latest news from Mr. Hankey is that he has nearly arranged to raise the despatches to North Bhaugulpore to 50,000 maunds per week, to the full extent required. From Caragola hitherto only 4,000 maunds a day have been carted into the interior, but here, too, the carrying power is being enlarged.

Rajshahye Division.

23. For the interior of the Rajshahye Division the carriage arrangements, which during the absence of Messrs. Molony and Robinson in the further part of this division did not go on so well as could have been wished, are being much improved and expanded, but are not yet fully developed. The traffic of these districts in

ordinary years is *down* the rivers during the rainy season. During the present dry year the rivers are very low, and at the best of times boats travel very slowly *up* the rivers of the interior. The beds of the Mahanuddee and of the Atrai are being improved, shoals are being removed, and a certain amount of Government grain is going up these streams; but the transport is slow and insufficient, and the district officers have for some time turned their attention more and more to the land routes, and have been organizing trains of carts. The distressed parts of Rungpore, Bogra, Maldah, and Rajshahye are happily near to the Brahmapootra and the Ganges, and they can be supplied with certainty. But Dinagepore is the most distressed district of all; it requires from 6,00,000 to 10,00,000 maunds (37,000 tons), and the latest reports show that only from 35,000 to 40,000 maunds a week are going forward. Perhaps Dinagepore may be able to draw a part of its supplies through Purneah, but the Lieutenant-Governor does not wish much reliance to be placed on that source. He has arranged with the Commissioner and the local officers to increase largely the rate of transport towards Dinagepore. Already in answer to this call a report has been received that on one cart route the daily despatches and the carrying power will be doubled before the 1st March.

Small steamers.

The Lieutenant-Governor has, with the approval of the Government of India, arranged for building four small steamers in Calcutta, which will be ready during the end of June, and will be able to run on the inland rivers directly the rivers rise. The Government of India is endeavouring to bring round from Coconada one or more of the large steel steamers and flats (120 feet long and only 18 inches draught) which run on the Godavery; two of the lower Godavery steamers are already on their way to Calcutta. An indent for ten more steamers of the same type (about 80 feet long and 2 feet 10 inches draught) has been sent to England for the Government of India; the steamers, or as many as can be sent, will come in pieces and will be put together in Calcutta. And it is hoped that by improving the river beds, and with the help of steamers, the full tale of the Dinagepore supplies may be made up at the beginning of the rainy season. When the inland rivers rise, all the afflicted tracts of Rajshahye will become very accessible. Meanwhile, as much grain as can be sent by land will be pressed forward, and the rest will be stored at or near the mouths of the rivers which will, after June, be the routes of supply.

Small bags for packing grain.

25. From many districts representations have been received that the two-maund bags in which Government grain comes are too large for convenient handling in the interior. It is moreover impossible to load two-maund bags on pack bullocks. The Lieutenant-Governor, too, feels that we must look much to eventually distributing the Government grain by head-loads, using the people themselves to bring their own supplies; and it is certain that ordinary coolies cannot conveniently carry even one-maund bags for any considerable distance. He has therefore arranged that all the Bengal jails shall manufacture for the Government use 30-seer (61lbs) bags instead of one-maund (82lbs) bags; and he hopes to get more than 150,000 of these small bags made every month. The Government of India have been asked to consider the subject, to contract for the supply of some hundreds of thousands 30-seer bags a month, and to arrange that future supplies of Government grain shall come in small bags of this size; and reply has been received that, so far as possible and as small bags can be supplied, future consignments of rice will be packed therein. It is proposed to supply a quantity of empty 30-seer bags to the relief committees of each very distressed tract, so that they may send out grain to small relief centres in these bags, which can be returned and refilled as often as occasion may require.

26. Sir Richard Temple's Minute regarding the arrangements for the supply and transport of grain for the relief of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, with a note of the Lieutenant-Governor thereupon and the orders of the Government of India is forwarded with this Narrative, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding the requirements of the Rajshahye Division.

The estimate of the quantities of grain required for the relief of the more distressed districts have greatly risen; and at present the estimated requirements up to date stand thus:—

	Quantity of Government grain required.	
	Mds.	Tons.
For Tirhoot—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate accepted by the Government of India	40,00,000	148,000
For Chumparun—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate ...	10,00,000	37,000
For Sarun—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate ...	5,00,000	18,500
Southern Districts of the Patna Division and the Soane Canal works—		
As per this Government and the local officers' estimate; perhaps Gya may be found to require more	5,00,000	18,500
Bhaugulpore District—		
Separate estimates not received, but following the scale adopted in Tirhoot, there will probably be required at least	7,00,000	25,900
Monghyr District—		
Has already received 1,50,000, and whatever more may be required can be delivered at any time. Say in all	3,00,000	11,000
Purneah District—		
As yet 2,50,000 maunds have been allotted. But the requirements on the North Behar scale will probably reach	5,00,000	18,500
Rajshahye Division—		
As estimated by this Government on the statements of the local officers 16,75,000 maunds, but say	15,00,000	55,500
TOTAL	90,00,000	332,900

If the transport arrangements prove sufficient to carry all that Sir Richard Temple proposes, then the reserve left from the grain already provided by the Government of India will be very small, and will not suffice to meet the demand for a reserve of 20,000 tons which the Lieutenant-Governor requested might be kept to meet the possible necessities of the eastern districts, where there may perhaps be an undue depletion of stocks so as to make it difficult for private trade to supply the north-eastern district, where the failure of crops has been so great. If we find that we can carry to the distressed districts all the quantities shown above, and if they are all required, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the Government of India will be able to arrange for still further supplies from the abundant harvest of Burmah, and so to provide a reserve for Bengal necessities.

Relief works.

27. The fortnightly returns of laborers employed upon relief works are now submitted complete for the first time. These returns do not show the laborers employed on relief works executed by the Court of Wards, and such works in Tirhoot, Sarun, and Bhaugulpore are very considerable. It will be seen that the total of laborers employed in Sarun on the last day of the fortnight was only 57,000 according to the table enclosed, while the Magistrate in his narrative puts the total at over 68,000. In round numbers the total numbers of laborers on the relief works, according to the latest advices, may be put down at—

Patna Division	120,000	people.
Soane Canal works...	32,000	"
Gunduck Embankments	9,500	"
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Khurruckpore works)	19,000	"
Rajshahye Division	24,000	"
Burdwan Division, Nuddea and Chota Nagpore ...	6,000	"
Northern Bengal Railway	3,000	"
TOTAL ...	213,000	"

In Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and Chumparun a large percentage of the work people belong to castes which do not usually take to field labor. In Sarun two-fifths of the laborers are men, while three-fifths are women and children. A great many people are employed also on tanks and irrigation works executed by landholders with the help of advances from Government; on single works of this kind 200 and 300 people are often employed. Armies of ryots, who would otherwise be in distress for themselves and their cattle, are receiving wages and employment in the transport of Government grain. The districts where relief works as yet draw but very few of the people are Purneah and North Bhaugulpore. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed very careful inquiries on the spot, with a view to ascertaining whether work is really and readily available in these tracts; whether the people are sufficiently and punctually paid; and whether there are any other administrative shortcomings in the management of the works. In Dinagepore, which marches with Purneah, people flock to the works, and thus the fewness of the Purneah laborers is the more remarkable. If it turns out that all the relief arrangements are really as they should be, and if the people neither come to the works nor starve, then we may hope that Purneah is, despite the grievous failure of the rice crop, better off than had been feared.

Apparent unpopularity of relief works in some districts.

28. It has been definitely settled that village tanks and such like works may, under certain conditions, be redug or dug as relief works where other useful works may not be available. The recommendations of the Lieutenant-Governor on this subject have been already given, and these have now been sanctioned by the Government of India. In a previous Narrative it was stated that there had been special difficulty about providing suitable relief works in South Monghyr. The Commissioner has now during his visit to the spot arranged for sufficient works, and has been able to educe a great deal of liberality from zemindars, who are opening relief works at several points. In Sarun and Tirhoot such works are also being actively carried on, and Sir Richard Temple has authorized them in abundance.

Tank and irrigation works.

The Irrigation Department was unable to give, on the papers and the information hitherto available, a final opinion upon the scheme for leading an irrigation channel behind the Gunduck embankment in the Sarun District; and so Colonel Gulliver, the Chief Engineer of Irrigation, has been deputed to Behar to inquire and decide on the spot whether this work (which will cost two lakhs of rupees for earth-work and two lakhs for masonry, &c.) can be undertaken with any certainty of its being remunerative, or of its eventually being worked into the greater project for irrigating Sarun from the Gunduck. Colonel Gulliver will at the same time examine certain other lesser schemes for joining together a series of reservoirs which stretch across to Chumparun, and for training the little Gunduck so as to save the Mozufferpore station.

29. In the Burdwan Division the most noticeable feature is the export going on from all parts concurrently with much failure of crops. The inference is that the cultivators have grain, but this will probably grow much dearer as the season advances, and the laboring and landless class will suffer. It is to be feared that in many parts of this division, where the people have been already reduced by fever, charitable relief will have to be very extensively given. This may specially be looked for in the district of Burdwan itself. The reports of most of the sub-divisional officers are here gloomy, though the Magistrate does not himself apparently take so serious a view of things, and the Commissioner, who has just specially visited the district under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders, takes a similar favorable view. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed that the necessary organization for charitable relief should be at once elaborated. The Maharajah of Burdwan has, with the liberality which has always distinguished him, formed a relief department for his estates, with centres at Burdwan, Culna, and Chinsurah. The whole cost of its operations will be borne by him, and he has intimated his readiness to do anything else that is necessary for charitable purposes. The Maharajah is only in this repeating what he did in 1866. No material change has taken place in Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, and Hooghly. Advances for land improvements have been very freely taken.

Burdwan Division.

Arrangements for works have been made, and the Commissioner has been pushing on the preparations for charitable relief centres. In Midnapore a scheme of district works has been sanctioned, which is believed to be well adapted to the necessities of the affected tracts; and as the Magistrate is of opinion that there will be a deficiency of grain in the wilder tracts, he has been allowed to make advances to zemindars and others to enable them to store.

Chota Nagpore Division.

30. In the Chota Nagpore Division the district of Maunbhoom has benefited like other parts by the rain. Exportation is still going on, and it is anticipated that, from this cause and the consequent dearness of food, the poorer classes may suffer more than they would otherwise have done. The Commissioner has recommended the storing of 50,000 maunds of Government grain at Burrakur. At present it is impossible to give this, as the railway cannot carry more than it is necessary to pour into the more distant parts of Behar. Fortunately, however, the parts of Maunbhoom where the grain may be required are near the rail and the Grand Trunk Road, and can be supplied at short notice if real need arises. A credit of a lakh of rupees has been granted for advances to zemindars and others for the purchase and importation of grain, while the tolls levied at the Burrakur bridge have been suspended as regards grain proceeding westward. There is an ample provision of works in this district, and the people go readily to them; Rs. 22,540 have also been taken as advances for land improvements, chiefly tank and petty irrigation works.

In Palamow it has been arranged to store 30,000 maunds of grain. The local zemindars have undertaken to bring 20,000 maunds of this from the neighbouring markets of Lohardugga, which are well supplied, and the rest will be sent by return coal and timber carts from the Soane depôt at Dehree. Work is here, as elsewhere in this division, provided in abundance.

In Singbhoom the villagers have undertaken a series of tanks and small irrigation works, of which Government will pay half the cost from the Government Estates Improvement Fund, and a system of village roads has been devised connecting the country markets. With these and advances given for the storage of grain it is hoped that the wants of this district have been sufficiently met.

Nuddea and the 24-Pergunnahs.

31. In the Presidency Division the two districts affected are portions of Nuddea and the 24-Pergunnahs. As regards Nuddea, it is only in a few thannahs of the district bordering upon Moorshedabad that any special distress is considered likely to occur. The Commissioner, who has just visited Nuddea and knows the district well, reports that parts to the north of the district will require careful watching, but for the rest the district is better off than it was in 1866. Work is provided for all who need it, and sums aggregating over Rs. 32,000 have been applied for as advances for land improvements; 1,900 people are employed on the district relief works, and many hundreds more on the works which are being opened by planters and zemindars for the relief of their ryots and for the improvement of their estates. The district stocks are believed to be good, save in the tracts above referred to, and the condition of the people generally is fair, though high prices will press severely on the poorer classes. In the 24-Pergunnahs there are some symptoms of distress in a part of the Satkhira sub-division bordering on the Soonderbuns, which is dependent for its crop on river floods, which were this year wanting. The rivers here are ordinarily brackish, and the cultivators have suffered, not only from want of the usual overflow of sweet water, but also from short supply in their tanks. Roads are being put in hand to give employment to the laboring class, and the Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioned the extension to the district of the relaxed rules for the grant of advances for land improvement. Government will pay one-third the cost of any works found really useful for water supply.

Irrigation Department works.

32. The daily average number of laborers on the Soane Canal works fell, in consequence of the rain and cold, from 36,000 to 32,000 during the fortnight under review. The laborers are in good case, and draw their supplies from the neighbouring bazaars. The Superintending Engineer has, however, intimated his intention to

open the Government grain stores to workmen at places where the price of common rice has fallen below 10 seers per rupee. Of the Gunduck embankments in the Chumparum District the Irrigation Department writes: "The number of laborers thronging to the works has been daily increasing. * * * At present 6,000 is the average number employed." In last fortnight's Narrative (paragraph 25) the number was 680. On the lower embankments in the Sarun District the daily number of work people has risen during the fortnight from 1,438 to 3,500. In the Burdwan Division two other channels for leading the Damooda water into the beds of old rivers have been lined. The great success of a similar work in the Kana Nuddee was reported in last Narrative. 725 people are employed daily on an undertaking for the improvement of the head-works of the Kana Nuddee.

Northern Bengal Railway.

33. The latest reports of progress from the Northern Bengal Railway are not very recent. There were then about 3,000 people on the works, and any quantity of work was ready for all comers. Bricks are being burnt on the lower lengths. The Government grain is being delivered and stored along the line. The Government of India has passed preliminary orders upon the estimates, has called for further detailed information, has promised to expedite the supply of material from Europe, and has at the same time given full authority to the engineers to proceed with so much of the work as can help to relieve distress. The Superintending Engineer (Major Lindsay) wrote recently that unless work people came in much greater numbers he would not be able to complete the railway bank all through from Nattore to Julpigoree as he had hoped to do. Save in parts not specially distressed, labor is not abundant. The completion of the bank this season is of special importance, because, if it is thrown up before the rainy season, the engineers will be able to see exactly the effect of their bank on the drainage of the country, and to decide upon the waterway required. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has authorized Major Lindsay, if the time for completing his bank begins to run short, to import laborers from other distressed districts.

Central relief committee.

34. The proceedings of the public meeting of the 4th February, at which a central relief committee was appointed, are enclosed.* The subscriptions to the Calcutta Fund have reached Rs. 2,50,000, which, with the £10,000 already collected in London, makes a total of £35,000 subscribed up to the present date. This is exclusive of the sums raised in the distressed districts, which sums will be spent by the relief committees of those districts, accounts and reports of such expenditure being furnished to the central committee. The detailed instructions which were to be issued by the central committee have been framed by the central committee and submitted to Government; but they are to be finally settled at an early meeting of the executive committee, when Mr. Schalch, the chairman, will state the results of his recent conference with the Commissioner of each of the distressed divisions. The very distressed tracts are to be divided into small circles of about 100 square miles each, at the centre of which will be stationed a trustworthy officer of the standing of Deputy Collector, who will be responsible for finding out distress and relieving it in every village of his circle. Sir Richard Temple desires that as many as possible of the relief officers for Behar should be Europeans, and effort is being made to find fit men in sufficient number. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that for Maldah and Dinagepore, where the language and people are familiar to them, selected Bengalee officers will make efficient superintendents of relief circles.

Scheme of charitable relief.

35. The Government of India has intimated that it will be undesirable to burden the central relief committee with directing the details of charitable relief, as the Commissioners of divisions are responsible for directing the district officers.

Functions of central committee.

36. The Government of India has further expressed its view that in tracts where distress is keen and general, the "labor test" must not, and in practice cannot, be strictly applied to applicants for relief; and has pointed out that the Irish famine

Labor test.

* Printed in a separate volume.

was in the end successfully relieved by importing grain and distributing it through the local dealers. It may here be mentioned that the Government of India has accorded to the Lieutenant-Governor discretion to sell Government grain to the public through local dealers in places where private trade may be insufficient or non-existent, and where the Government grain stores can bear so heavy a drain. The question of selling Government grain was first raised by this Government at the beginning of January on a representation from Mr. Robinson of Dinagepore. From Sir Richard Temple's Minutes and from the local officers' reports it would appear that the Government grain stores may eventually have to be thus opened at places in the north of Chumparun, of Tirhoot, of Bhaugulpore, and of Dinagepore, where private trade does very little for the supply of the vacuum in the flood stocks. The Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders regarding the exercise of due discretion in this matter.

Charitable relief actually begun.

37. Meanwhile active distribution of charitable relief has been begun in parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Purneah, and Maldah. By the last accounts the daily number of persons in receipt of charitable relief was less than 2,000. The completion of the organization of the relief circles is being pressed, though, except in the tracts abovementioned, distribution of such relief is happily not yet required. The Lieutenant-Governor has, however, pointed that even though abundant relief works may suffice for all able-bodied people, yet there must be many poor creatures who, from age and infirmity, are unable to work, and who will in times of scarcity and dearness suffer much, and for whom charitable relief must certainly be provided.

Advances to private persons.

38. The total advances taken by private persons for purchase of grain was by the last accounts not much over six lakhs (£60,000). Applications for loans for land improvements are being made in large numbers; but the unavoidable inquiries into questions of rights and security have taken some time, and as yet but few loans have been actually paid out. In view of these delays the Lieutenant-Governor anxiously considered whether he could propose or authorize the disbursement of part of an advance before the requisite inquiry had been completed. He came to the conclusion that for the present it would be inexpedient to do so. But he has sanctioned several additional executive officers for the prosecution of the necessary inquiries, and has invested some fifteen selected district and sub-divisonal officials with powers of a Collector under the Land Improvement Act. Care has been taken that these powers shall be exercised subject to the control and within limits set by the Collector of the district in each case.

Increase to district staff.

39. More than thirty extra civil officers of different grades have been posted to the distressed districts for relief work. Still more are on their way, and the officers of other districts and divisions have been informed that the Government trusts to them to work short-handed, so that they help their brother officers in Behar and Rajshahye in bearing the heavy work now devolving upon them. The Government of India has sent twelve civil servants drawn from the North-Western Provinces, Bombay, and the Central Provinces. Some of them have already done very good work: one, as Sir Richard Temple points out, holds efficiently the very important post of relief officer at Ramnuggur, in North Chumparun.

Employment of military officers.

40. At paragraph 30 of the last Narrative it was stated that certain officers of the Quarter Master General's Department had been posted to famine districts. Several junior officers of the same Department have now been sent to work under Colonel McGregor. The Commissioner of Patna reports that these officers, acting under Colonel McGregor's orders, are of the greatest assistance in controlling and directing the transport operations, and in prospecting for new routes. In the Bhaugulpore Division, Captain Grant, also a skilled officer, has already, in concert with Mr. Hankey, done much to improve and systematize the Bhaugulpore carriage arrangements. Of Captain Ker's work in the Rajshahye Division report has not yet reached Government; but from the alacrity with which he took up his duty, the Lieutenant-Governor has no

doubt he will do good service. Major DeKantzow is spoken of as having begun specially well. The Government of India has been good enough to promise the services of eighteen more military officers to superintend relief operations.

Estimate of total famine expenditure.

41. During the fortnight under review, the Lieutenant-Governor submitted to the Government of India an estimate, so far as it was possible to frame one, of the total expenditure to be incurred on relief operations during the present famine. The estimate published by the Government of India (namely, three millions sterling) has been taken as the first cost in Calcutta of the 340,000 tons of Government grain which have been provided. The items of the estimate are as follow:—

	£
Special temporary establishments	50,000
Promotion of private trade in grain	150,000
Relief work expenditure.	1,000,000
Purchase and transport of Government grain	4,445,000
Charitable relief apart from the supply of grain	100,000
Government grant-in-aid to private relief works	50,000
Advances for purchase of grain and for land improvements ...	500,000
Total ...	6,295,000

From which may be deducted probable recoveries—

	£	
By sale of Government grain	1,445,000	1,945,000
Repayments of advances	500,000	
Probable net expenditure ...		4,350,000

This estimate presumes that there will be a favorable season, and that good harvests will be reaped by the end of September or beginning of October 1874.

No. 12.

Twelfth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 20th February to the 5th March 1874.

Weather and rainfall.

The weather has been, on the whole, very seasonable. In parts of Eastern Bengal there has been a moderate amount of rain during the fortnight, and there has been some little rain in Central Bengal. But between the showers in Bengal and during the whole fortnight in Behar the weather has been for the most part clear and bright. Only from one very limited tract of Chumparun was any fall of hail reported. The rain was wanted in East Bengal, and the dry weather was wanted in Behar to ripen the spring crops, so that the weather has been, on the whole, as good as could be wished. As yet there has been no cholera, or threatening of cholera, among the laborers on any of the works. Regarding the weather of the fortnight at Calcutta, the Meteorological Reporter writes:—

Rainfall of the fortnight in inches.

Dacca	0·35
Furreedpore	1·40
Backergunge	2·53
Mymensing	0·49
Sylhet	3·19
Chittagong	2·31
Noakhally	1·78

Since the date of the last report the weather has been on the whole fine, but occasionally cloudy in the day-time, and foggy in the early morning. On the 26th a few drops of rain fell at Calcutta, and between the 22nd and the above date slight showers were felt in some parts of Bengal Proper and in Maunbhoom. At this time the weather was close and oppressive, and warmer than is usual at the time of year; but since then the wind has gone round to the west, and it has become cooler.

The weather and rainfall reports for the two weeks under review are enclosed.

Price of grain.

2. In last Narrative a fall of prices was recorded in the Rajshahye Division, and a general rise in prices over the rest of Bengal and Behar. The prices current for Saturday, the 28th February, show that there has been a fall in prices over the whole of

Western and parts of Central Bengal. The only parts that show a considerably rise in prices are the districts of Chittagong, Tipperah, and Noakhally, which supply the port of Chittagong. In Backergunge there was a great rise, but the price has fallen again. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks there is a general tendency to a rise of prices in Eastern Bengal. In the Rajshahye Division prices are about the same as they were at the date of last Narrative. In Behar also there has been a slight fall in prices, excepting only in the districts of Sarun and Chumparun, where a slight rise has occurred. In Chumparun the price of maize, the ordinary food of the common people at this season, has gone up from 14½ to 13 seers per rupee. The price of common rice in the principal districts compares with those quoted in last Narrative thus:—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.		
	On 31st Jan.	On 14th Feb.	On 28th Feb.
Burdwan ...	14	13	13½
Beerbhoom	12⅜	12	12½
Hooghly	11 to 12	10 to 10½	11½ to 12½
Calcutta	12½	10½	12¼
Dinagepore	13¼	14	14
Maldah	11¾	12½	12
Rungpore	11¼	11¼	11¼
Dacca	16	16	14
Backergunge	16½	13½	15
Chittagong	18	17	16½
Noakhally	17½	16	13
Patna	12	13	13½
Shahabad	13	11¾	12½
Tirhoot	10	10	10
Chumparun	11¾	11¼	11
Bhaugulpore	12⅝	11¼	11⅜
Lohardugga	15½	16	16
Maunbhoom	15	14½	14½

From passages in the district narratives it will be seen that in many districts the price in the interior is higher than the prices above quoted, which are only those of the district head-quarters town. The price-current statements for the two weeks under review are enclosed.

State of the crops.

3. The district officers have now been able to form some estimate of the probable yield of the spring crops. The rainfall at the beginning of February has done immense good to the crops, and the yield will probably be, on the whole, more than twice as heavy as it would have been without rain, provided no fresh misfortune from hail, excessive rain, or the like occurs. Still, on the whole, it is hardly to be expected that the yield of the spring crops will be equal to the yield of an average year. It is in South Behar, in Sarun, and Chumparun, and the lower parts of Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah, that these crops contribute largely to the food of the people. No doubt in all the alluvial lands, they will be very fine indeed; but in the northern parts of Tirhoot and Bhaugulpore, and in much of Dinagepore and some adjacent tracts, the spring crops give but an insignificant addition to the food supply. In Patna, Monghyr, Purneah, and South Bhaugulpore the yield of the spring crops is expected to be nearly as good as in ordinary years. In Gya the crop will be fair; but only half the ordinary area was, the Collector estimates, sown with these crops. In Tirhoot the yield may be nearly half the average. In Sarun the Collector expects that two-thirds of an average crop will be got all round; the Commissioner estimates the yield at a somewhat lower proportion, but he is making further inquiries. In Chumparun the yield will be probably above half of an average crop. In the Rajshahye Division the spring crops will be little below the average.

Later estimates of the rice crop.

4. Since the last Narrative was submitted estimates, of the out-turn of the principal rice crop have put the yield of some of the great producing districts, such as Backergunge and Chittagong, at something less than had been previously estimated. These estimates, taken together with the general rise in prices in Eastern Bengal during the last five weeks, make the Lieutenant-Governor fear that the stocks in Eastern Bengal may, as suggested in paragraph 26 of the last Narrative, have

been much depleted. If so, then the need for a reserve of Government grain to meet possible demands for North-Eastern, Central, and Western Bengal becomes greater. The matter has been laid before the Government of India with an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's views.

Supply of grain.

5. The supply of grain is still sufficient in all the large marts, except in North Behar, and at occasional places in the interior of the Rajshahye Division. In some villages in North Tirhoot grain is not to be bought, and at one point on the Northern Bengal Railway works the supply of grain fell short in the local bazaars. Still, up to the present time the Government stores have been opened for the supply of laborers on only a very few works. At one or two places, where prices were very high, Government grain was offered for sale to the work-people; but they preferred to provide for themselves from the bazaar as long as they could. Private trade in grain is still active in the Patna, Shahabad, Monghyr, Purneah, Rajshahye, Rungpore, and Bograh Districts; in the other distressed districts private trade in grain is very slack indeed. During the period under review private traders carried by railway into Behar:—

From the North-Western Provinces and Punjab ... 7,881 tons of grain during one week.
From Calcutta ... ... 4,186 „ „ two weeks.

This gives a private import of grain of about 1,424 tons a day. There is still, so the Patna dealers report, very much grain ready for export from the Punjab, if only its owners could get railway wagons on which to carry it into Behar. The private imports of grain reported from the Sarun District continue to range at about 1,20,000 maunds per fortnight, but probably there is a good deal of petty import not reported.

Export of grain.

6. The export of grain from Calcutta during the month of February is returned by the Collector of Customs at 15,421 tons, which is a very great reduction on the exports of the two preceding months. On the other hand, the imports are now very large, amounting in February to 60,068 tons. The total exports of grain from Bengal from the 1st October (up to the 28th February for Calcutta and Chittagong, and up to the 15th February for the Orissa ports) is shown by the Collector of Customs to be 174,628 tons, and to be 155,926 tons reckoning from the 1st November, so far as returns have been received from the outlying ports. The grain imports since the 1st October are shown by the Collector of Customs at 100,064 tons, of which 3,723 tons were imported on private account. As was supposed, it turns out that a large part of the imports on private account stated in last Narrative was really on Government account. This Government has no exact information regarding the grain consigned to the Government of India which has arrived in the river, and that statement has therefore been omitted; only the imports which have been entered in the Collector of Customs' books is given. Inquiry was made regarding the private imports, which were ascertained to be as above stated. Of this part was rice imported from the Madras coast for the Hutwa Wards' Estate, indigo factories, and the like, and part consisted of experimental imports from Burmah. Inquiry has been made regarding the result of these Burmah imports, but the information elicited is contradictory; one importer stating that the rice was good and the result successful, while another firmly declares that it is still on their hands and cannot be sold except at a heavy loss.

Condition of the people.

7. The only districts or tracts in which the condition of the people would seem to be perceptibly worse than it was at the time of the submission of last Narrative, are Northern Tirhoot and parts of the Rungpore District. From all the rest of the distressed districts it is reported either that the improving prospects of the spring crops have brought prices down and made the people more cheerful, or that the relief works and charitable relief arrangements are meeting and alleviating distress. In the Patna District prices are high, and professional beggars cannot get alms from their ordinary supporters, but there are no other signs of distress.

Districts where things are better.

In Gya "the condition of the people remains good, but the Magistrate cannot expect this to last much longer." Four or five isolated cases of distress met with relief. In Shahabad there is no general distress, though "pressure is being felt by the more indigent of the high castes and by those who ordinarily

subsist on charity, or who from bodily infirmities are incapable of work." In Sarun the condition of the people is expected to improve, "for a time at least," in consequence of the yield of the spring harvest. "Meanwhile, the provision of relief works has been found to relieve distress wherever reported;" and it is believed that "widespread and general distress among the laboring classes has thus been avoided." From the very worst parts of Chumparun it is reported that there had been great distress, but that, owing to the various relief measures, "a material and already perceptible improvement in the condition of the people has been caused." In Monghyr the condition of the spring crops is excellent, and there is much work to be had in the fields; but in two limited tracts the condition of the people is said to be bad, though the distress has been "hitherto confined to the old, infirm, widows, and children." From the very worst parts of Bhaugulpore, the Magistrate, who was there in camp, was able to report that much field-work was going on, and the general "condition of the people was better than he had anticipated." The Purneah reports show that distress is extending in the two worst thannahs, where arrangements are being made to meet it; but the rest of the district is apparently better off than it was a fortnight ago. From Moorshedabad, Rajshahye, and Bogra it is reported that the condition of the people is not critical, and actual distress is felt as yet only by the old, infirm, and diseased. The Maldah report says there is no actual distress, except in one tract where people flocked much to the works, and charitable relief was being given in grain and food. The Dinagepore Magistrate reports that the prospects of his district "appear much more hopeful than they did a short time ago."

Tracts where matters were worse.

8. The only distressed district from which the report is clearly worse is Tirhoot. In the three southern sub-divisions of Tirhoot there is not any general distress, except in certain limited tracts. But in the three northern sub-divisions of Durbungah, Seetamurhee, and Madhoobunee matters are worse. In many tracts of these sub-divisions distress is increasing; prices are very high, and grain is not always to be had at the nominal prices, so that it has been necessary to commence the sale of Government grain. People are now flocking to the works in much larger numbers; the infirm and the professional beggars are coming into relief centres to be fed. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the arrangements now made in Tirhoot will meet the distress as fully as has been done in Sarun and Chumparun. Hitherto the system of relief works in parts of Tirhoot had not been at all so good as in the last named districts, and it is not yet certain that they are what they should be. Abuses are said to have prevailed which must be remedied; every effort is being used to prevent their recurrence.

The Magistrate of Rungpore reports the condition of the people to be worse, and that a police officer employed on inspection reported severe distress leading to the sale of wives and children. Previous accounts had not led the Lieutenant-Governor to anticipate such statements, and he has urgently referred the matter to the Relief Commissioner, who very recently visited the district. The Lieutenant-Governor's own hope is that things are not so very bad in a district like Rungpore, where prices are always high and nearly everybody is well off; still the last reports show that parts of Rungpore require very careful watching and relief. If there is plenty of rice in the eastern districts, private trade will bring much of it to Rungpore when the south winds blow; but if the sources of supply fail, they must be supplemented.

Even in Dinagepore, Sir George Campbell does not anticipate there will be so much suffering as in Tirhoot now that a large supply of Government grain is provided for that district, and he hopes that by selling grain to the people the Government may enable most of them to tide over the difficulty.

Disposal of references and questions by the Government of India in oral communication with Lieutenant-Governor.

9. On Saturday, the 21st, and on Saturday, the 28th February, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to invite the Lieutenant-Governor to meet the Government of India for the disposal of pending references and questions on famine matters after oral discussion. Action has already been taken on most of these points, as will appear from

subsequent paragraphs of this Narrative. It is therefore unnecessary to go through the several questions *seriatim* in this place.

Sir Richard Temple in Behar.

10. Since the submission of the last narrative Sir Richard Temple has completed his tour in Behar. He has visited North Bhaugulpore, and has again travelled through the worst parts of Tirhoot, seeing to the completion of the relief arrangements there; he has during the past week come to Calcutta, where he has conferred with the Lieutenant-Governor upon the state of the distressed districts. He has now started on another tour in which he will visit Purneah and Dinapore, and probably some other places. With this Narrative are forwarded the Minutes showing Sir Richard's conclusions regarding Bhaugulpore and a conditional opinion regarding Purneah; also the letter in which he reported the conclusion of his first tour, and the Lieutenant-Governor's reply, warmly acknowledging Sir Richard's services, and stating the subjects to which the Lieutenant-Governor would now specially call his attention. The Lieutenant-Governor has before acknowledged the great energy, ability, and tact with which Sir Richard Temple has directed famine operations in North Behar during his tour there, and he has derived much benefit from being able to discuss matters personally with Sir Richard during his present short visit to Calcutta.

Allotments of Government grain.

11. The allotment of Government grain to the different districts remains very much as was stated at paragraph 26 of the last (Eleventh) Narrative. Sir Richard Temple's estimates for Bhaugulpore differ very little from that of this Government. Not having visited Purneah, he has not yet given a final opinion as to the amount of grain that will be there required; he has for the present authorized (*see* Minute No. 28) the Commissioner to arrange for carriage up to a total allotment of 650,000 maunds for Purneah. But as the last accounts are favorable there, the somewhat smaller quantities previously contemplated by Government may be found sufficient. Meanwhile, in order to relieve the pressure on the East Indian Railway traffic upwards from Howrah, the Government of India, on the Lieutenant-Governor's suggestion, has authorized him to provide for the Sarun District and for any pressing needs of Shahabad by purchasing grain through the Patna dealers, who draw their supplies from the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. A portion of this may also be diverted for Tirhoot. When the carrying power of the East Indian Railway was specially slack, and contractors' carts were being kept empty opposite Patna, authority was given to the Commissioner of Patna to purchase locally enough grain to keep the carts going. Under the latter authority some small amount of grain was bought; all the grain so purchased, and the supplies to be brought for Sarun, will be so much in excess of the original total provision of 340,000 tons of Government grain. 1,000 tons of Government rice has been made over to the Nepal Government for the relief of sufferers in the Nepal Terai; the grain is now on the way to Bhaugulpore, where it will be taken over by the Nepal Famine Commissioner.

Despatch of Government grain from Calcutta.

12. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight under review were 1,033,737 maunds. Altogether 3,650,000 maunds (about 135,000 tons) of Government grain have been despatched to or received in the distressed districts up to date. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway during the month of February averaged 1,700 tons. At one time an attempt was made to load up and despatch in one day as much as 2,800 tons, in order to make up for previous slack days and to meet the indents of the officers who had collected means of transport at the stations up-country. But the Locomotive Department could not carry away the full quantity loaded, and the Government of India decided that the strain upon the railway caused by such large Government despatches, in addition to the ordinary traffic of the country, would be too great, and directed that not more than 2,500 tons of Government grain should be loaded up at Howrah in any one day. Effort is being made to have a reserve equal to two or three days' supply at all the great river side depôts, so that the local means of transport may not be thrown out of gear by occasional short despatches on the East Indian Railway.

13. In the last Narrative it was stated that the arrangements for crossing the grain over the Ganges from the East Indian Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway stations into the very distressed districts were being made fairly complete. During the past fortnight one additional Government steamer, three hired steamers, eight flats, and three cargo boats have been added to the fleet which is occupied in crossing grain over the Ganges. Some of these vessels may not yet have reached their respective stations; but there either are, or soon will be, present—

River crossings.

At the Kooshtea Crossing—three large river steamers with six flats, one smaller steamer with a flat, besides country boats.

At the Rajmehal Crossing—one river steamer with one flat, besides country boats.

At the Barrh Ghât Crossing—three river steamers with four flats, and two cargo boats, besides country boats.

At the Futwa Ghât Crossing—two river steamers with four flats or cargo boats.

On the Rivers in the interior of Rajshahye—one small steamer with two barges already at work, one steam launch about to arrive, and three steamers expected shortly to arrive from the Godavery.

At each of these crossings there are large numbers of native boats; but when the strong west winds begin to blow steadily, these country boats will find it a very long business indeed to cross the Ganges, and especially to beat up-stream as they have to do from Kooshtea and Futwa Ghât. The trip from Kooshtea up to Godagaree takes a steamer and flats three or four days, and it takes a native boat from fourteen to twenty days; up to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, the voyage is still longer. Against the stream of the Ganges at this time of year native boats can rarely make more than 8 to 10 miles a day, and when the west wind is against them they often fail to make 5 miles a day.

14. The arrangements for carrying the allotments of Government grain into the interior are now complete and systematic. Even allowing for occasional mishaps and disappointments, there seems every reason to hope that the large allotments of grain made to the most distressed tracts will be well into the interior before the 15th June. If there should be any disappointment, the water routes and the Durbungah Railway may make up the supply after that time. Sir Richard Temple's minutes, reviewing the transport arrangements, are forwarded. No. 35 reviews the transport arrangements for Tirhoot; his Minute No. 34 describes the reserve carriage which has been provided. It will be seen that arrangements have been made by contract for throwing 4,200,000 maunds into the three northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot before the rains. This, with the quantity before provided by other means, and that supplied by the Durbungah Court of Wards, will make fully 4,500,000 maunds, say 166,000 tons. This is a very fully sufficient supply for almost the whole population for several months, and that part of the country is amply secured against a failure of the general food supply. It will be seen that it has not been found necessary to rely on the North-Western Provinces contracts for more than 400,000 maunds. Even for so much it was necessary to pay excessively high rates, and the Lieutenant-Governor is very glad that Sir Richard Temple has been able to arrange without further drawing on this source at present. It will be seen that, besides the contracts, a reserve of Government carriage has been provided. The Patna Divisional Narrative gives details of the transport scheme for Sarun and Chumparun, and describes the steps taken by the officers of the Quarter Master General's Department to keep the roads in order, and by other military officers to maintain discipline and system at the river side depôts, whence such immense numbers of carts have to start daily. An additional crossing place and route into Tirhoot is to be opened opposite the Mokameh

Inland transport.

Patna Division.

railway station, and is to be worked by a contractor from the North-Western Provinces from the 15th March. Altogether, the full Tirhoot supply is arranged for, and so are the supplies for Sarun and Chumparun. The transport contractors are working well so far as is yet known; their carts and cattle are in good condition, fodder is being collected, and there is no reason why the contracts should not be fulfilled. Most of the transport contracts carry the grain to great centres, and the local officers will, with the help of local planters and zemindars, distribute the grain to the more remote centres. Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 36 shows that pack bullock carriage is being engaged for this work of internal distribution. Several thousands of small gunny bags, to contain 30 seers (61 lbs.) of grain a-piece, are on the way to each of the distressed districts. They will be distributed to each grain depôt, so that grain can be packed in them and sent to villages either on pack bullocks or on coolies' heads.

Bhaugulpore Division.

15. The Monghyr District has always been able to carry all the grain it got or could want. But in North Bhaugulpore there had been difficulty and delay in getting the grain away from the river side. Contracts have, however, been made for carrying into the northern tracts all the grain that has been allotted. Efficient officers of the Quarter Master General's Department have been told off to bridge the streams, keep the roads in order, and systematise the working of the two traffic routes. The Purneah District has recently been carrying into the interior fully 5,000 maunds of grain a day, and it is believed that this rate will be increased. The Dinagepore District looks to get some part of its supplies through Purneah, where the roads are good. Accordingly, Mr. Hankey has gone to Purneah with a view of obtaining sufficient carriage to raise the Purneah transport power as much as possible.

Rajshahye Division.

16. It had been stated in previous Narratives that the transport into the remoter parts of Dinagepore, where a very large supply of grain was required, had been difficult to arrange. The difficulty has, however, now been overcome; and from the papers forwarded it will be seen that the Relief Commissioner expects to get the whole Dinagepore supply (10,00,000 maunds of grain) into the district by nine different routes before the end of May. Since the summary was written, report has been received that the officers are already working up to the full estimate on three or more of these routes, and the Commissioner of the division has informed the Government that even more may be done. The Commissioner reports that the engineers occupied in improving the bed of the Mahanuddee hope by the end of March to secure a good straight channel, 100 feet wide and 3½ feet deep, up the Mahanuddee as far as Maldah. As this will open the river for large boats and small steamers half way to Raigunge, the principal depôt of North-West Dinagepore, the benefit to the grain transport will be very great if this expectation is fulfilled.

General aspect of the grain transport question.

17. Thus then it may be said that the Government officers have now arranged, at great expense indeed in some cases, but still they have arranged, to carry into the interior of the most distressed districts all the grain which Government proposes to send; and there is every reasonable hope that these arrangements will, notwithstanding the misadventures which must occur in great undertakings of this kind, be effectually carried out. The total quantity of Government grain which had reached its final destination in the interior of the districts up to the date of the latest returns is 16,97,467 maunds, or 62,870 tons. Considering that the latest returns do not bring the facts for remote store-houses up to later than the 17th or 18th February, and that the despatches were largest at the end of January, while the internal transport was not then fully developed, it may perhaps be reckoned that the grain now reaches the final store-houses in the interior of the worst districts within a month of its leaving Calcutta.

Relief works.

18. The numbers of persons employed on the Government relief works have increased largely during the fortnight in all the worst districts, except Bhaugulpore and part of

Monghyr. Compared with the figures given in the last narrative (paragraph 27), the numbers employed daily stand thus—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division	120,000 people.	162,267
Soane Canal Works	32,000 „	36,000
Gunduck Embankments	9,500 „	19,210
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Kurruckpore Works)	19,000 „	16,310
Rajshahye Division	24,000 „	35,940
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, and Chota Nagpore	6,000 „	11,754
Northern Bengal Railway	3,000 „	6,200
TOTAL ..	213,000 „	287,711

The districts where relief is most freely given on works are Sarun, with its daily average of 82,820 people, exclusive of those on the Gunduck embankment; Chumparun, with 25,787 relief laborers, besides 7,900 on the embankment works; Dinagepore, with 25,000 people on the district works, besides 6,200 on the railway. In Tirhoot the relief works are being developed; 25,889 people are employed on Government works, besides 13,000 on Court of Wards' works, and 5,036 on private works. But, as has been said, some abuses and failures have come to light in this district, and we have yet to learn that the arrangements are all we could desire. In the Sarun District and in South Behar the number of work people fell off during the latter days of the fortnight; this decrease was due to the demand for labor for the spring harvest, and partly to the slight fall in the price of food.

In North Bhaugulpore and Purneah the number of laborers on the Government relief works continues to be small. In the former tract a great deal of relief work on village tanks is said to be now being done by private persons; in Purneah the system of daily payments to laborers has been strictly introduced, and it remains to be seen if the number of work people increases greatly. Happily the condition of Purneah appears to be, excepting certain limited tracts, better than had been at first feared.

Relief works system.

19. The system of administering the relief works differs in different districts. In Sarun and Dinagepore there has been little or no demand for additional trained subordinates of the Public Works Department, yet the works are attracting an immense number of people, and much good work is being done. The people on some of the Sarun and Shahabad works are paid by what is called "the cowrie system," under which each man, woman, or child receives payment in cowries (that is, in the lowest denomination of money) for each basket of earth lifted. In these districts the people work for the most part with their own tools, but a reserve of Government tools is provided. From Tirhoot, on the other hand, a requisition has been made for a very large number of trained overseers and for 60,000 tools; and it is said that the work cannot be done and the people cannot be paid regularly unless the requisition is met. Rather than run any risk that there should not be enough work for the able-bodied poor in a very distressed district like Tirhoot, the Lieutenant-Governor has, with the help of the Government of India, arranged that additional overseers shall be sent into Tirhoot to the extent of an indent passed by Sir Richard Temple; but after consulting Sir Richard Temple, he has refused to attempt compliance with a much larger demand for Department of Public Works establishments since made by Mr. Worsley. The indent for tools has been partially, and soon will be wholly, complied with. But seeing how very much of the relief work will be on common earth roads and tanks, the construction of which the people perfectly understand, and that in other districts relief works are very satisfactorily managed through the people themselves, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought that the Tirhoot officers have in this matter fallen very far short of the measure of success attained by officers of other districts. The Lieutenant-Governor's views on this subject were conveyed under certain orders, and further orders are about to issue. The real difficulty is to see that the money charged to Government is really disbursed. For this purpose unprofessional is as good as professional agency, and the duty must be undertaken by the relief

establishments. The Commissioner is now on the spot; his views are quite in accord with those of the Lieutenant-Governor, and he will see that things are put on the best footing possible.

Charitable relief.

20. Now that the arrangements for transporting Government grain into the interior are fairly complete, and that relief works for the employment of the able-bodied are ready in all the distressed districts, the subject to which the attention of Government, its officers, and of the local relief committees is now mainly directed is the organization and distribution of charitable relief. In the "Instructions to Relief Committees" a very wide discretion was left to the local committees and their subordinates, who were—

(1) to ascertain where relief was required within their circles;
(2) to collect subscriptions and to obtain resources either from Government or from the central committee;
(3) to give relief either—
  (*d*) gratutiously to those who were unable to work;
  (*e*) in the shape of wages for in-door employment or for petty village works;
  (*f*) by advances of money or grain, or by sale of grain at reduced prices to classes and persons who were by usage prevented from working;
  (*g*) by sale of grain through the agency of local traders in tracts where there was an absolute deficiency of supply;
  (*h*) by establishing poor-houses for the reception of paupers and for feeding them.

21. The central committee have already at their disposal about Rs. 7,00,000 (£70,000) for the central relief fund. Over and above this total considerable sums, amounting altogether to over Rs. 1,00,000 (£10,000), have been collected in the distressed districts, and are being spent there by the local committees.

Central Relief Committee.	Rs.
Subscriptions paid or promised in India to the central committee ...	2,99,567
Subscriptions remitted by the Right Hon'ble Lord Mayor from London ...	2,09,265
Subscriptions remitted from Madras ...	67,000
Subscriptions remitted from Rangoon ...	34,000
Government contribution towards doubling private subscriptions ...	1,00,000
TOTAL	7,09,832
or £	70,983

The central committee have granted from their funds Rs. 2,05,000 to the districts shown in the margin. The expenditure of these grants will be conducted under the control of the Government officers, but will be accounted for to the central committee.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Dinagepore, Maldah, Rungpore, and Bogra.

Relief organization in the districts.

22. Meantime the organization of relief in the worst districts has been pushed on. Sir Richard Temple had, in communication with the local officers, arranged (*see* Minutes Nos. 26 and 33) details of the relief sub-divisions and relief circles in Tirhoot, Chumparun, and North Bhaugulpore. He is now proceeding to Purneah, where he will revise the relief circles there required. The Commissioner of the division has reported upon the relief circles he is organizing in Dinagepore. As yet the relief circles have not all been manned, but the officers told off to the relief sub-divisions and relief circles are arriving at their posts daily; and in the meanwhile such distress as comes to light is relieved through the civil officers, engineers, police, or other Government officials who may be on duty in the interior. A statement is forwarded, showing how far the charitable relief organization has been completed or is at work. The numbers of persons actually in receipt of daily charitable relief are not accurately given for every district, but the total numbers thus relieved by the local committees or by Government officers (exclusive of the recipients of private charity) range from 200 to 1,200 a day in the districts for which returns are complete.

Progress of charitable relief in the worst districts.

23. For each of the most distressed districts, the following short notes of actual operations may be given:—

Tirhoot.—Till recently no charitable relief operations on a large scale have been undertaken in the three western sub-divisions, but the last accounts show that it has been necessary to take immediate measures to relieve a part of the head-quarters sub-divisions. Sub-committees have been appointed, and are being appointed, where distress is anticipated.

Sir Richard Temple has given orders regarding relief sub-committees in Tajpore. In three sub-divisions three additional relief sub-divisions have been formed and twenty relief circles; the sub-divisions have been manned, and so have seven of the circles. The relief officer of Durbungah reports that funds for charitable relief have been placed at the disposal of factory managers and village headmen in the worst tracts. And he adds: "Our relief superintendents are now arriving every day; the ensuing fortnight will show great progress in this direction. Meantime, I think all precautions are being taken to prevent the occurrence of deaths from starvation. Each superintendent on his arrival is posted to a circle and directed to visit every village in his jurisdiction without delay, to prepare lists of the headmen through whom he will work, and to collect all information that he can obtain regarding the condition of the inhabitants."

Sarun.—In the Sarun District reliance has hitherto been placed, and very successfully placed, on a very large system of public works; but the persons in charge of the 18 first grade relief centres have been placed in funds to enable them to relieve casual distress, and so also have most of the Government officers on duty in the interior, and regular relief centres have been opened at two places on the Hutwa estate. The Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Magistrate at once to open centres similar to that at Hutwa in the parts of the district where any of the inspecting officers report signs of actual distress not met by works.

Chumparun.—In the Chumparun District five relief sub-divisions have been formed, and four of them have been manned. In the fifth, or most distressed, sub-division three circles have been formed, all three of which are manned by officers who have already been for some weeks at the work. In the other relief sub-divisions the circles will be in charge of indigo planters and native zemindars, who have undertaken, and may be trusted fully, to discharge the relief duties. Of the most distressed Ramnuggur relief sub-division the Magistrate-Collector writes: "Colonel Boulderson is collecting statistics, village by village, in the tract under his care, and distributing relief. Mr. Howe is doing the same for Ramnuggur; 200 persons have already been relieved; these are almost all cripples and men who, from sickness or other cause, are unable to work. A relief house and dispensary are also being erected at Ramnuggur. At Bagha Messrs. Chritien and Moore distribute relief to about 200 to 300 persons daily."

North Bhaugulpore.—In the north of Bhaugulpore six relief circles have been formed in the sub-divisions of Soopole and Mudheypoora under the sub-divisional officer, and the circles are being manned. Meanwhile the Soopole sub-divisional officer "has started charitable relief at Soopole, Nowhatta, and Kunda in anticipation of formal sanction; and about 100 persons are now fed daily at Soopole, 150 at Nowhatta, and 50 at Kunda. These persons appear to be chiefly of the lowest classes, and a large proportion of them children." The Mudheypoora sub-divisional officer writes that in his jurisdiction "four centres have been started, out of which three are in full work, relieving on an average ten daily. No one as yet seems willing to apply for relief at Ghylar."

Purneah.—In the Purneah District seven centres have been formed in the worst tracts: at two of these centres a Government officer is in charge; at the others planters and zemindars have undertaken the duty. Sir Richard Temple will decide after visiting Purneah how many centres, with full relief organization, are required in Purneah.

Dinagepore.—The Commissioner's report appended shows that he has constituted six relief sub-divisions, to each of which an officer has been told off. Mr. Molony hopes to administer the circles through village headmen and local people rather than by paid agency. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that these arrangements will suffice, for he does not anticipate such severe and helpless distress in Dinagepore as will have to be met in North Behar.

Maldah.—In the Maldah District only one relief sub-division besides the district head-quarters has been opened. But in the worst tract of the district seven relief centres are in operation, whereat from 140 to 200 people are relieved daily.

25. Of the remaining districts, charitable relief is being given most largely in Monghyr and Rungpore. Of Monghyr the Magistrate-Collector writes :—

Officers engaged in distributing relief complain much of the difficulty in selecting candidates for tickets; crowds of lepers, blind, and cripples, styled professional beggars, whose profession however is the result of necessity rather than choice, present themselves. It appears hard to refuse charity to such persons, but if once they come on our hands, it will be a problem of some difficulty to determine at what hour we are to shake them off. I have not thought proper to insist on any very hard-and-fast rules; the distributing committees must use their own discretion in each instance.

The following is a list of the relief centres already opened :—

No.	Name of relief centre.	Number of persons fed.	Under whose supervision.
1.	Monghyr ...	359	Municipal committee.
2.	Buktearpore .	70	Mr. More and committee.
3.	Chupraun ...	65	Mr. H. Christian aided by a committee.
4.	Luckeeserai ...	60	Local committee superintended by Mr. Currie.
5.	Sheikpoora	104	Mr. Currie aided by a local committee.
6.	Secundra	200	Mr. Money aided by a committee.
7.	Garua Parsanda	12	Ditto ditto ditto.
8.	Orain	50	Moulvie Abdul Jubbar aided by a committee.
9.	Obeypore	20	Mr. J. Christian aided by a committee.
10.	Pachna	5	Mr. Currie aided by a committee
11.	Sondhi	20	Only just opened by a Moulvie Abdul Jubbar.
12.	Choara	40	Mr. Money aided by a committee.
13.	Jamui	0	Return not received.

From Rungpore the Magistrate writes :—

" Relief is being distributed at the following places—

	Persons.
Pyraband	400
Meetapuker	231
Pirgunge	76
Govindgunge	34
Kamdair Hât	(Unknown.)
Gaibunda	39
Sundergunge	150
Kalligunge outpost	16
Naldanga	120
Luckhipore	80
TOTAL	1,146

Uncooked food, half potatoes, half rice, is being given; but arrangements will be made to give cooked food. At Mohigunge two private *annochatras* (relief-houses) have been opened, and relief is given to about 600 persons in cooked food, and on Sundays Basanta Geer Sunnasi gives a dole of rice. I was present yesterday, and about 2,500 people attended for it. In Batashun Baboo Luchmipat Dugar gives a week's supply of rice to about 400 of his ryots. The superintendent is going from village to village and gives tickets to the deserving objects of charity, on the production of which a supply of rice is given at the cutcherry. In Baharbund *annochatras* (relief-houses) are opened at Olipore and Lalchamara Hât, and will be opened at other places. No particulars as to numbers relieved are at hand.

Advances for purchase of grain and landed improvements.

26. Advances for purchase of grain continue to be taken in Sarun and in South Behar. In the Sarun District also advances to the amount of Rs. 51,853 have been made for the execution of landed improvements. In North Bhaugulpore the zemindars are coming forward much more freely than hitherto to undertake tanks and other works for the benefit of their estates. A leading zemindar, named Hurbullub Narain Sing, has set a specially excellent example in this respect. The Government of India has been pleased to remit the stamp duties charged on deeds required for advances of money to persons in Bengal for the purchase of grain or for the maintenance of ryots during the present season.

Burdwan Division.

27. There is no material change in the condition of the Burdwan Division, though the tendency of prices is still upward; and in Hooghly the cultivators are now refusing to part with their stores of grain. This affects the supply of the smaller markets in the interior of that district, which are now fed from the large importing depôts as the banks of the large rivers. Upwards of 6,000 laborers are employed on

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works in Hooghly. In Midnapore supplies are ample and exportation from the district still goes on. But the weaving class are beginning to suffer, and subscriptions are being collected and relief works organized to meet the wants of this and other non-cultivating castes. The Messrs. Watson have opened their stores of rice in the wilder part of the district, called the Jungle Mehals, but there is no demand for the rice at present, though the number of laborers at subsistence rates on the works provided is said to be increasing fast. From Burdwan District export is still going on, and prices are beginning to pinch rather severely in parts. Relief arrangements are complete. Last Narrative stated that the Maharajah of Burdwan had, with his usual princely liberality, undertaken the gratuitous relief of all the poor and helpless in his zemindaree, and had organized a relief system on a very ample footing. Other zemindars are, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to say, now following this good example. In Beerbhoom and Bancoorah distress affects, at present, only the non-cultivating and indigent classes. Relief committees are now at work, and labor is provided for all who require it. It may possibly be found desirable to give advances to zemindars and others in one corner of Bancoorah to enable them to import some rice, but the Commissioner has not yet declared this necessary.

Chota Nagpore Division.

28. In Maunbhoom prices are slowly rising all over the district, though they vary very much, 17 or 18 seers of common rice being obtainable for a rupee in the south and south-west of the district, while only 13 seers can be got in the North-West. Exportation is going on still to Hazareebaugh and Raneegunge. No cases of casual distress for want of food have yet been met with, but it is extremely probable that, as noted in last Narrative, some Government grain will have eventually to be sent into this district. The average daily number of laborers on the roads was 2,260 for the fortnight. Advances for land improvement have been taken to the amount of Rs. 36,435. Charitable relief arrangements are still backward, but the Lieutenant-Governor has insisted on their being at once completed.

From Palamow there is nothing fresh to report. Orders have been given for strengthening the sub-divisional staff to meet the demand for supervision of works and to dispose of applications for advances.

Later reports from other districts show that the rain in the beginning of February has done much good everywhere in this division, especially in filling the tanks and bringing on the crop of *mohwa* and the jungle products upon which the poorer classes here habitually live. The part of Hazareebaugh near Palamow and Gya may still, the Commissioner thinks, require special relief, and the storage of some Government grain is recommended.

From Singbhoom the Deputy Commissioner writes with enthusiasm of the "steady honesty and zeal" with which the villagers are working out their advances. No less than 40 really useful reservoirs have been constructed for Rs. 7,000. The people under their mankis, or village headman, are working "with clannish emulation" in throwing up embankments, and the system of relief seems both complete and successful.

The Commissioner (Colonel Dalton) has been on tour in the Tributary States of Sirguja and Korea, where he has been stimulating the chiefs and headmen to look into the condition of their people. Though there was some failure of crops, Colonel Dalton finds that there is food enough in the country. Work will be found for those who need it. But the large purchases of lac for export are said to have put even the poorer classes in funds, and there is altogether no great cause for anxiety about these states.

Nuddea District.

29. In Nuddea supplies are reported still sufficient, but prices have an upward tendency, ranging from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-3 per maund. The only classes, however, that feel actual distress are day laborers and weavers: 1,500 persons are now employed on tank-digging and roads. For the weavers, attempts are being made to supply work at their own trade in making gunny bags for Government. Charitable committees will be at once formed to give advances for, and look after this mode of, relief.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

30. It was stated in a former Narrative that prices had risen very greatly in the Rajmehal tract of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and at one time the Commissioner had recommended that

Government grain should be stored in that district. Looking to the facts that the Sonthal Pergunnahs are situate on two lines of railway, that the information as to the threatenings of distress was incomplete, and that grain was still being exported largely, the Lieutenant-Governor was for some time unable to agree to store Government grain in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. There was risk that if Government grain was brought in prices would fall, and the exports from the district would become brisker than ever. Now, however, more complete, though still not final, reports have been received: it appears that for the greater part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs there is no immediate anxiety, but that in one limited tract near the railway, where the rice failed and there is no spring crop, prices are very high, and the people eagerly resort to relief works. For the food of these work people grain from outside was much required; the Commissioner reported that he could not buy the required quantity of grain locally without greatly disturbing the market, and accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has sent 5,000 maunds of grain, and has promised to send more for this particular tract. Carriage for its transport and store-houses for its reception are said to be ready. In one part of the great Government estate called the Damin-i-koh the Sonthal ryots are said to find difficulty in paying their rents owing to the failure of their crops. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly authorized the suspension of the Government demand from those ryots who are really in straits and require such a concession.*

Cooch Behar.

31. The Commissioner of Cooch Behar has reported that in the protected state of Cooch Behar and in the young Rajah's zemindarees, situate in the Rungpore District, there is much scarcity, that rents cannot be collected by tenure-holders, and that distress is beginning among the old and infirm. The Commissioner has, from the revenues of Cooch Behar, imported and stored grain; has opened relief works, and has arranged for in-door works for the women and the infirm. By these measures he hopes to enable the people to tide over the hard times until the early rice harvest of the month of May.

Irrigation Department works.

32. The daily average of laborers on the Soane Canal works has risen to 36,000. The laborers continue to draw their supplies from the neighbouring bazaars, where prices have, according to the engineer officer's reports, fallen appreciably. On the Gunduck embankments the number of laborers is increasing rapidly, notwithstanding that the prospects of the country are better than they were twenty days ago. Food is said to be a little cheaper in the local bazaars, whence the laborers supply their wants. The number of laborers has risen from 6,000 to 10,000 a day on the Chumparun embankments, and from 3,500 to 10,283 on the Sarun embankments. The supplies of Government grain for the embankment works are coming in rapidly; 20,000 maunds are said by the engineer to be arriving weekly in the Chumparun embankments. As yet the Government grain is not being used on the works.

The temporary dam which threw the Damooda water into the Kana Nuddee was carried away by the freshes in the middle of February, and it has not yet been reconstructed. New embankments under construction in South Midnapore will give employment to about 1,000 persons. From the Jungle Mehals (forests tracts) of Midnapore, where there was much failure of the crops, laborers are going to the irrigation and embankment work on the Cossye River, and about 700 carts from this tract are employed regularly in carrying stone for the Irrigation Department.

Northern Bengal Railway.

33. The latest returns from the Northern Bengal Railway show that for 98 miles of the main line the side-widths have been set out, 130 miles of railway-feeder roads have been marked out, and 10 miles of the Rungpore branch have been lined out. The land is being taken over under the Act as rapidly as it is required. Comparatively few people seek work on the lower length of the line, but on the upper length there are plenty of work people. Up to the 14th February 6,241 people were employed; they were all paid by piece-work, and the average earnings of an adult male came to over three annas a day. Brick-making was being pushed on for the bridges; the telegraph line from Julpigoree southward as far as the marshy country was complete, and communication was established. Forty-five store-houses for rice were complete, and the rest were approaching

completion. The supply of grain in the local markets was for the most part sufficient, and prices were about 11 seers per rupee. At one or two points on the line supplies are said to be falling short, but the Government stores have not as yet been opened.

Emigration.

34. One effect of the scarcity has been a considerable increase in the number of emigrant laborers to the tea districts. Colonial emigration has not been increased in the same proportion. The majority of the emigrants come from Western Bengal, Chota Nagpore, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs rather than from the very distressed districts of Behar. The scheme, which was described in a previous Narrative, for promoting emigration to British Burmah has now begun to take effect, and up to the end of February 503 persons had taken advantage of Government assistance to emigrate to British Burmah; out of these 427 were recruited in Calcutta and 76 in the Monghyr District. No emigrants for Burmah have as yet come from other districts. These emigrants are bound in course of time to repay the money spent by Government in carrying them over to Burmah, so that the emigration fund will be replenished, and it may be possible to maintain a constant stream of emigrants. The numbers of emigrants during the four months, November to February, during the last two years have been as follows:—

Number of Emigrants despatched from Calcutta during the Famine months as compared with the corresponding months of the preceding season.

	November.		December.		January.		February.		Total for the four months.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.	1872-73.	1873-74
To the Colonies and West Indies ...	2,143	3,222	760	3,045	1,701	1,939	2,758	2,525	7,362	10,731
To the tea districts	1,113	2,218	1,413	3,929	2,095	4,718	2,427	2,398	7,048	13,263
To Burmah	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	503	.....	503

The total for the past four months is thus 24,497 as against 14,410 in the preceding year. The numbers are as yet too small to give any appreciable relief to the afflicted districts, but the increased supply of labor will be of much benefit to the tea districts.

Railway to Durbungah and telegraph lines in the distressed districts.

35. The staff for the construction of the Durbungah Railway have been on the ground now for some weeks. Two companies of Sappers have been sent to Chumpta Ghât, whence the line starts. Material is arriving steadily, and is being unloaded and carried across the Ganges. More specific progress reports of this work will be given in future Narratives. Telegraph lines have been laid, and are now in working order, from the Ganges to Mozufferpore, Durbungah, Motecharee, and Bettiah. The line is being carried on to Mudhobunnee. Telegraphic communication has also been established between Julpigoree and the greater part of the Northern Bengal Railway works. As yet cables for carrying the telegraph lines under the Ganges at Patna Ghât and Barrh Ghât have not been arranged. It is proposed to work a military field telegraph across the Ganges from Barrh to Chumpta Ghât by means of boats moored at intervals on the river.

No. 13.

Thirteenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 6th to the 19th March 1874.

The weather of the fortnight has been variable and unusual. In Bengal more rain* has fallen than is usual at this time of the year. There have been hailstorms in parts of Hooghly, the 24-Pergunnahs, Moorshedabad, Maldah, Pubna, Furreedpore, Patna, Tirhoot, Sarun, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah. But these hailstorms usually extend over very limited areas; and, so far as the reports show, the hail has done no appreciable harm to the crops, except in small tracts of Furreedpore, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah. The hail-stones which fell in

* *Rainfall of the fortnight in inches at some of the principal district head-quarters.*

Burdwan .. .	1·81
Beerbhoom	1·09
Calcutta	1·33
Maldah	2·76
Dacca	1·27
Sylhet	1·20
Tipperah	0·26
Patna	0·02
Tirhoot	0·21
Chumparun	0·50
Bhaugulpore	0·08
Lohardugga	1·36

part of Calcutta on the 8th March were of unusually large size; but so limited was the area of the storm that, though it hailed for nearly half an hour at one end of the town, at the other end there was no hail at all. The rain which has fallen over most parts of Bengal will have done good to all the crops now in the ground; and on the whole the spring crops of Behar have passed through the fortnight without any general injury from rain or hail, and these crops may be said to be now (19th March) quite safe. The Meteorological Reporter writes regarding the weather of the fortnight in Calcutta thus :—

During the first five days of March the weather was fine and seasonable, the wind dry and steady from between west and south. On the 6th and 7th it became cloudy and a little rain fell, and on the afternoon of the 8th a somewhat severe hail-storm passed over the southern part of Calcutta, lasting for 20 minutes. The hail-stones were abundant, of spheroidal or ellipsoidal form, and of unusual size. One was measured $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{6}$ inches in diameter, and about Garden Reach some are said to have been picked up 5 inches in girth. Since this there has been rain at intervals of three or four days, making a total of $1\frac{1}{3}$ inches since the beginning of the month. The temperature has been unusually cool for the time of year.

Price of grain.

2. Prices in Central Bengal are much the same, and in Behar are a trifle dearer than they were a fortnight ago. The only districts where there has been really great increase in price are in East Bengal, where prices have risen during the fortnight—

from	14	seers	to	12	seers	per	rupee	in Dacca.
„	17	„	„	13	„	„	„	in Mymensing.
„	$18\frac{1}{2}$	„	„	$15\frac{3}{4}$	„	„	„	in Sylhet.
„	$16\frac{1}{2}$	„	„	13	„	„	„	in Chittagong.
„	13	„	„	12	„	„	„	in Noakhally.

These high prices betoken either depleted stocks or else a very large demand for export into the famine districts throughout East Bengal. Exports of rice beyond Bengal and the Calcutta demand for exportation are much slacker than heretofore; and this slackness has been felt in the Backergunge markets, where prices have fallen during the fortnight from 15 to 16 seers per rupee. The apparent rise in the Behar quotations must probably have occurred in head-quarters towns only, for the district narratives of Behar speak of prices being easier and supplies being sufficient in all districts, except North Tirhoot and North Chumparun. The present quotations for some of the principal districts compare with the prices shown in preceding Narratives as follows :—

		Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.			
		On 31st Jan.	On 14th Feb.	On 28th Feb.	On 14th March.
Burdwan	...	14	13	$13\frac{1}{2}$	13
Beerbhoom	...	$12\frac{3}{8}$	12	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Hooghly	...	11 to 12	10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$
Calcutta	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Dinagepore	...	$13\frac{1}{4}$	14	14	$12\frac{3}{4}$
Maldah	...	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	12	12
Rungpore	...	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{8}$
Dacca	...	16	16	14	12
Backergunge	...	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$	15	16
Chittagong	...	18	17	$16\frac{1}{2}$	13
Noakhally	...	$17\frac{1}{2}$	16	13	13
Patna	...	12	13	$13\frac{1}{2}$	13
Shahabad	...	13	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$
Tirhoot	...	10	10	10	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Chumparun	...	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	11	12
Bhaugulpore	...	$12\frac{3}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{3}{8}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$
Lohardugga	...	$15\frac{1}{2}$	16	16	15
Maunbhoom	...	15	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	14

State of the crops.

3. The lapse of another fortnight has made the prospects of the spring crop more assured, and unless there be very unusual weather, such as heavy rain or hail-storms over large areas before harvest time, the outturn will be good—far better indeed than the people or the local officers, or the Government, had any ground for hoping six weeks ago. In the Patna, Shahabad, Bhaugulpore, Monghyr and Purneah

Districts the yield of the spring crop will be equal to the out-turn of ordinary years. In Purneah the unusually large breadth of spring crops will compensate for the shortness of the outturn in some of the northern tracts. In Gya the spring harvest will be very good, but the Collector estimates the area under crop to be only half the breadth of ordinary years; even if this estimate be somewhat within the truth, still the narrowness of the spring crop lands will greatly reduce the benefit to be conferred on Gya by the harvest which is now being reaped. In Chumparun, despite a little hail in one corner of the district, from one-half to two-thirds of an average harvest is expected, excepting only in the Ramnugger tract to the north, where the spring crops are very poor; and in Sarun, where the spring crop area is larger than in any other district, the yield is expected to be from two-thirds to three-quarters of an average spring harvest. In Tirhoot the outturn is not expected to average more than half the usual spring crop yield for the whole district; and the *chena* (a cheap and early millet), which was somewhat extensively sown in February, is not doing well. In Central and Eastern Bengal the spring crops have been and promise to be very good; the occasional showers of the last six weeks have done the greatest good to the root and vegetable crops, to the April rice (*bore dhan*) fields, and to the spring millets. All these miscellaneous and ordinarily insignificant food crops have been sown this year very much more broadly than usual in every district of Bengal proper.

In brief, it may be hoped that the rainfall of February, though it came so late that hope had almost gone, has placed several districts of Bengal and Behar beyond the reach of famine, and has contributed greatly to enable the less fortunate districts to meet, with the help of Government, the distress and famine that are now being felt in parts of the country.

Supply of grain.

4. The supply of grain is still sufficient for the demand at most of the larger markets, though at places in the north of Tirhoot and of Chumparun the supply is insufficient, and prices are very high. Sales of Government grain through the local dealers, or failing them, through Government officers, have been sanctioned in the most distressed tracts of Bhaugulpore, Dinagepore, Tirhoot, and Chumparun. In these tracts local trade is doing nothing, or next to nothing, to maintain the supply. For the Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and Dinagepore tracts Sir Richard Temple has (*see* Minute No. 39) fixed 12 seers per rupee as the rate at which Government rice is to be sold to the public: this rate is for Bengal clean rice; other grains, such as the partially husked Burmah rice, will be sold at proportionate prices. For North Chumparun the rate for the sale of Government grain to the public has been fixed at 11 seers the rupee; the rate at which the grain is given to the traders being 11½ seers, they thus make something under 5 per cent. commission on their transactions. In the Durbungah sub-division of Tirhoot the supply of Government grain now in store is not large enough to enable the Government to sell freely to the public. Moreover, the private stocks are as yet sufficient, and private grain is still being sold at a rate a little cheaper than the rate of 10 seers per rupee, which at present obtains on the Government relief works. The sale of Government grain to the public is only now beginning on any considerable scale, so that at present nothing can be said as to the results of the measure. No report whatever has been received that the Burmah or Saigon rice is not acceptable to the laborers. Indeed the several kinds of rice have become so mixed up together in the hurry of transport that the distinction has not been very completely maintained.

Private trade in grain.

5. In South Behar, in parts of Purneah, in parts of Sarun, in Maldah, Rajshahye, and Bogra, and especially in Rungpore, private trade in grain is brisk. Rice from Eastern Bengal is being carried largely into the districts on the Brahmapootra. The Magistrate of Rungpore writes: "The rice which is brought for sale is nearly all imported; very little of it is home produce. The southern part of the districts is mainly supplied by boats from Dacca and Serajgunge, the west from * * * * Dinagepore and Bograh, and the north and east from Cooch Behar and Julpigoree." The Government possesses no statistics of the private importations, which reach the distressed districts by many rivers and channels. But of the grain which is carried into Behar by private trade the railway furnishes

complete returns, which show that private traders carried by railway into Behar—

From the North-Western Provinces and Punjab ...	14,397	tons of grain during the last fortnight, for which returns are available.
From Calcutta and places in Bengal	8,988	ditto ditto ditto.
TOTAL ...	23,385	ditto ditto ditto.

This gives a total importation of 1,670 tons of private grain daily.

Supply of grain from the Punjab.

6. There is a great deal of grain still waiting to come down from the Punjab by rail into Behar, and the traders complain from time to time that the railway cannot carry all they want to send. The Government of India have been in communication with the East Indian and the Scinde, Punjab and Delhi Railway Companies with a view of ensuring the best use of all the available means at their disposal, and the increase of their means if possible. That there must be an immense deal of grain in the Punjab, which will, if it can, find its way into Behar, is apparent from many sources of information. During the present week the Lieutenant-Governor has received an offer of service from a produce-dealer in the largest mart of the Punjab, who writes: "The crops all over the Punjab are larger than have been known for very many years, and grain could be largely bought," he adds, "at a minimum of, say, 40 seers of wheat and 44 seers of gram for the rupee." The price of wheat quoted for Arrah, a town on the railway, at the time this letter was written, was 13½ seers per rupee.

Disposal of grain imported into Patna.

7. In successive Narratives it has been stated that private grain was flowing into Behar by railway at the rate of 1,000 to 1,500 tons a day, and that a very large proportion of these great importations were consigned to Patna city. Yet when the Commissioner of Patna set himself last week, under instructions from the Government, to buy in the Patna bazaar 40,000 maunds of grain, he was met by the assurance that there were no large stocks in the city, and that any large Government transaction of the kind would derange the grain trade most seriously. It may be inferred, therefore, that the grain privately imported has found, and is finding, its way quietly and gradually into the more remote markets of South Behar, if not of North Behar. It must have been largely due to these importations, as well as to the operations of Government, that the price of grain has remained at a comparatively moderate rate over South Behar during the last four months, notwithstanding the failure of the rice crops and the high prices quoted at the beginning of the scarcity in November 1873.

Export of grain.

8. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the exports of food grains from Bengal during the five months ending on the 28th February are shown in a new shape. The total exports of food grains from all Bengal for the current and the previous years are as follow:—

	Number of tons exported in	
	1872-73.	1873-74.
For the month of February	65,715	34,241
„ five months from October to February	249,900	172,907

The export returns for the first half of the month of March are not yet quite complete, and therefore no figures for the last fortnight are given. So far as returns and telegraphic advices of the exports beyond sea have been received, it is apparent that the export of rice from Bengal to Europe and the Colonies is declining. The periodical market reports received from the Chamber of Commerce show that the demand for rice in Calcutta for exportation has been slack during the fortnight, and that wholesale prices in Calcutta have fallen about 8 per cent. during the fortnight. The imports of grain from beyond sea into Bengal have been—

	1873-74.	
During the four months ending on the 28th February	100,064	as against for the whole year 1872-73, an import of 10½ tons.
During the month of February ..	60,068	

Of this total only a very few thousand tons are on *bonâ fide* private account.

Condition of the people.

9. The only tracts in which the condition of the people is clearly getting worse, and in which there is at present actual famine, are the three north-east sub-divisions of Tirhoot (with a population of two millions), and a comparatively small tract of North Chumparun, with a population of about 300,000.

Tirhoot: the Lieutenant-Governor's visit.

The last Narrative will have shown that there was cause for uneasiness about the state of parts of North Tirhoot. Immediately after the despatch of that Narrative the accounts from Durbungah became still more alarming: there seemed reason to believe that there had been a considerable outbreak of famine there. Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor thought it right himself to proceed to the spot in order to satisfy himself of the state of things, and to do all that he could to assist in dealing with the calamity. He was the more anxious to do this as so much has now been trusted to local officers on the spot, and Mr. Metcalfe, the new Relief Commissioner specially charged with the relief of North Tirhoot, was proceeding to take up his duties, while Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of the Division, was at hand. The Lieutenant-Governor was thus able to meet these officers on the spot where the greatest want had arisen, to concert with them the necessary measures, and to see Mr. Metcalfe fairly started in his task.

Condition of affairs in Durbungah.

10. On the Lieutenant-Governor's arrival he found there could be no doubt that famine of considerable severity had set in through the tracts about Bahera, Hathee, and Singhya in the Durbungah sub-division, east and south-east of Durbungah. The people were flocking to the relief works in enormous numbers. Voluntary agency was unfortunately not forthcoming so freely in Durbungah as in most other parts, and it had not been found possible to organize local labor arrangements so rapidly. The lower classes of this part of Behar are a most miserable and timid people, most difficult to move. At first none will come to anything new. When they begin to come, they come with a rush like a great flock of sheep. It was necessary to offer work for long, and search them out before they could be got to it. A very full and complete Government organization was being gradually elaborated, but unhappily we are always liable to surprise among such a people; and in a limited tract it proved that some of the poorer classes had begun to starve before that organization was in full operation. There was no dearth of supplies in the country: they were forthcoming at a dear rate, and the population at large was not seriously affected; but many of the poorest of the laboring classes had become much pinched, and a few of the most wretched had reached the point of starvation. The character of the distress and of the population were both such that the free use of relief works is, more than anything, effective. These were very rapidly extended and very indulgently managed, all comers being admitted, even though their work was little more than nominal. It is believed that by this means widely-spreading want has been stayed. Meantime, special care is given to those who have starved or nearly starved: they are well supplied with food and necessaries. The arrangements for village-to-village relief in detail, already in progress, are pressed on as fast as possible. At this season the population who are on the works do not suffer from exposure, and all who are not much reduced seem almost happy and contented there, so much so that it may be difficult to get them home again.

Popularity of the relief works.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor went through 49,000 people employed on the largest works extending over several miles; many of them were very miserable, but the only loud complaint and strong appeal to him which he encountered was from a large group of families collected together who seemed the most reduced and miserable of all. When he came to inquire into their grievances, it turned out that they had been selected by Mr. Metcalfe as quite unfit for work, and were to be taken in and specially cared for. With loud wailings they protested against such treatment, and only prayed to be allowed to remain on the works. It is impossible to save the lives of many reduced children, because the parents will not come to our relief-houses until sheer force is used, and that might create a panic. Except, however, these very reduced cases, the works suffice for the present.

Though wages are low and food dear, the indulgence which allows whole families to come on the works and receive payment makes them very popular, and enables the people to subsist. Women and children are much more numerous than men. It is, however, impossible to continue long to allow the numbers collected together to increase, and all efforts are now given to deal with the needy in detail. Some progress had already (17th March) been made in sifting the immense masses of people on the largest works: the able-bodied, who prefer good wages, are being kept on considerable works where a stricter system can be enforced; the less able villagers, and those who are better at their homes, are being sent to petty village works, and those unfit for any work are being put on charitable relief. Commencement is also made of dealing with cultivators by advances.

Charitable relief organization.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Commissioners, and their officers have occupied themselves in carrying out the details of these arrangements under the general rules already laid down. A large European agency had been arranged for, but the Lieutenant-Governor found the native agency to be deficient. He has directed every effort to call out and use the village agency which the country affords, to stimulate the landholders and their agents to get such paid native agency as the country affords. But superior native agency is not available. The population being Hindoostanee, and more allied to the people of the North-Western Provinces than to those of Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for aid. That appeal was promptly responded to, and a number of selected native officers has been sent down by Sir William Muir: they will be of the greatest use. Some good Bengalee officers and some Bengalees selected by the Commissioners of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have also been sent to assist in the work. The native officers will be especially useful in many circles; and in some circles where civil servants of limited experience of the country are in charge, native coadjutors will be invaluable, especially in dealing with that most difficult but most important part of our operations—the advance of money and grain to respectable cultivators, whom assistance may enable to tide over the period of distress.

General result of operations in Tirhoot.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor has visited both several parts of the very populous Durbungah sub-division and parts of the two other specially distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot, Seetamurhee, and Madhobunnee. In one part of Madhobunnee there seems to be some cause of apprehension, but the sub-divisional officer is going to the spot, and it is hoped that danger will be obviated. The Lieutenant-Governor has been happy to find a concurrence of official and non-official testimony (confirmed so far as he has seen by his own observation), that in these two sub-divisions, as well as in the greater part of the Durbungah sub-division, the want which was certainly coming very rapidly on the people has been met and stayed. The means were found of managing relief works and giving aid in a rough way wherever it was most necessary, pending the completion of a more perfect organization. Everywhere there is great resort to the relief works. Everywhere other forms of relief are rapidly progressing, and the result has been to save the people from starvation. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts he may believe that it is only in the comparatively limited tracts above alluded to that actual starvation has been reached, and that in those tracts it is now stayed. Only three or four deaths are recorded as actually due to starvation: it may be feared that, directly or indirectly, a few more may have suffered, of whom we have no full information; but it is believed that everything possible has been done to arrest the evil, and that, with the help of God, we shall succeed.

Ramnugger tract of Chumparun.

14. The relief officer of the northern and most distressed tract of Chumparun writes that "during the last few days there has been a marked change for the worse in the condition of the people throughout a large part of this sub-division." Prices have for some weeks been high in this tract; the people are for the most part poor, and the landlord does little to assist them. Regular charitable relief, village by village, began earlier in this tract than in any of the famine districts; and it appears that by such relief, and by the sale of Government grain

to those who can pay, the distress will be met, and the people will be enabled to get through the hard season from March to August next. No cases of death from starvation are reported, though the village-to-village visitation has brought to light some hundreds of people who were unable to work, were much reduced in strength, and must probably have died before long if Government relief had not been given.

Other possible famine tracts.

15. The only other tracts in which the near approach of actual famine had been apprehended were parts of North Bhaugulpore, part of South Monghyr, part of Sarun, part of Purneah, and parts of Dinagepore, Maldah, and Rungpore. Of North Bhaugulpore the Magistrate was able to write: "I have been over a large extent of country in all the worst tracts. * * * * * * Prices have not only fallen, but grain is more easily procurable. * * * Should no damage be done to the spring crops by hail or rain, general distress will certainly be averted till June." He adds: "There can be no question that matters are more satisfactory now than they were a month or so ago." From the worst part of Monghyr the sub-divisional officer gives a favorable report of the condition of the people, and says that "he saw no sign of starvation." Regarding the worst parts of Purneah, the Magistrate reports that isolated cases of great distress are found, but there is no general distress. He adds that "as long as the supply of grain is kept up as it is at present, he has no fears for the people." Regarding the worst parts of Sarun, the sub-divisional and district officers report "that there is distress, but the people are far from starvation as yet," and that "there have been no cases of starvation; but isolated cases of distress are reported and are provided for." From Dinagepore the Magistrate reports that the people are "wonderfully cheerful and sanguine about the future; and Sir Richard Temple, after his tour through the Dinagepore district, writes (*see* Minute No. 45): "There is no marked distress yet reported, nor has any marked symptom come under my observation." From Maldah the Magistrate writes: "No cases of distress or starvation are reported." And after visiting the worst parts of the district he says: "I am glad to find there is at present no cause for anxiety in that quarter." From Rungpore it is reported that the excellent promise of the spring crops makes things look much more hopeful; but in some parts there is much distress, which is being relieved as it occurs, and at the relief-houses there were a considerable number of people suffering from disease and starvation combined.

In some of the districts mentioned in this paragraph, severe distress is expected later in the year, and preparations are being made accordingly. But general distress has not yet appeared in these tracts, as it has unhappily in Tirhoot and North Chumparun. From several parts of the country it is reported that, if it had not been for the measures taken by Government, there would have been many thousands of starvation deaths before this, and the prospect for the next four months would assuredly have been very much blacker than it now is.

Other districts classed as *distressed*.

16. Of the other districts and tracts classed as *distressed* in November 1873, it may be said that the favorable rains of February and the activity of private trade have, so far as the local officers are able to judge, removed all present apprehension of general distress or famine. The condition of affairs in parts of the Burdwan, Presidency, and Chota Nagpore Divisions and in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, none of which were originally classed as *distressed*, will be noticed in subsequent paragraphs.

Sir Richard Temple's tour in the Rajshahye Division.

17. At paragraph 10 of last (the Twelfth) Narrative, it was stated that Sir Richard Temple was about to visit Purneah and the districts of the Rajshahye Division (*see* Minute No. 44 on the Purneah District). He found that the promise of a fine spring harvest had greatly improved the prospects of Purneah; he estimated that 240,000 people would be on the hands of Government for four and a half months, and that for their maintenance 6,50,000 maunds of Government grain would be required for the district. This estimate, which was somewhat in excess of that framed by the local officers and the Bengal Government, has been accepted, and the required amount of grain will be carried into the district. Sir Richard

Temple found the grain transport arrangements cheap and adequate; and he approved the circles which had been formed for the administration of charitable relief by the local officers. From Dinagepore Sir Richard Temple wrote (*see* Minute No. 45) that the relief circles formed were sufficient, but that native subordinates were required under the relief superintendents; that the grain transport arrangements were working well, and up to the requirements of the district, and that the cattle were in good condition. Sir Richard Temple noted the further requirements of the district in respect of Public Works subordinate officials, and in respect of medical subordinates: these requirements are being met. The Government of India has been pleased to help Dinagepore and other districts by ordering selected native officers of the army to the famine districts for work as assistant superintendents of relief circles. In his Minute No. 46, Sir Richard Temple puts the grain requirements of Dinagepore at 12,00,000 maunds—a quantity somewhat in excess of the estimate framed by the local officers and the Bengal Government. There is every ground for trusting that the whole of the increased allotment will be in the district by the time it is wanted; some of the grain will not be required until July and August, when, as Sir Richard Temple points out, the inland waters will be navigable.

Grain from Upper India for Behar.

18. At paragraph 11 of last (the Twelfth) Narrative, it was stated that the Government of India had authorized the purchase, through local dealers, of a quantity of northern grains, sufficient for the supply of Sarun, Shahabad, and the Soane Canal works. The weekly supply for these tracts had been 42,000 maunds, and the Commissioner of Patna has arranged for the delivery of this quantity of grain weekly by four of the chief grain-dealers of Patna city: the price is to be Rs. 2¾ per maund, inclusive of all charges for bags, railway freight, &c. The medical officer of Tirhoot, and also the Surgeon-General and Deputy Surgeon-General of the Indian Medical Department, had represented that it might be injurious if Government attempted to feed on rice only all the Tirhoot laborers and poor, who were accustomed to mix barley and pulse or other nitrogenous food with their daily meal. The Sarun and Chumparun populations will have in the crops now reaped or ripening a very considerable proportion of nitrogenous grains; and therefore the Lieutenant-Governor decided to divert to Tirhoot the weekly supply of 42,000 maunds of northern grains (principally pulse) which the Government of India had permitted him to buy. This arrangement will relieve the pressure on the East Indian Railway from Howrah upwards to the amount of about 1,500 tons a week: it remains to be seen whether the Patna contractors, who will import their supplies direct from the North-Western Provinces, can obtain railway wagons to bring their grain down with sufficient regularity.

Despatches of Government grain.

19. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight under review were 9,80,090 maunds. Altogether 46,20,000 maunds (about 167,000 tons) of Government grain have been despatched to, or received in, the distressed districts up to Tuesday, the 17th March. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway during the fortnight averaged 1,553 tons, which is considerably below the maximum which the Government of India had (as stated in paragraph 12 of last Narrative) fixed as the maximum daily despatch. The Government of India have been assured by Mr. Stephenson, the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company, that by better traffic arrangements the full requirements of Government will in future be met. As a consequence of the limited carrying power of the Railway, it has not been possible to send off daily sufficient grain to keep the local transport agencies at work: there were happily reserve stocks on the banks of the Ganges at Caragola and Jugdes Chuck, which had been collected before the local transporting power had been expanded to its present proportions, while the transport contractors on one important route broke down temporarily; and so practically there has been no absolute loss or grave inconvenience from the shortness of the East Indian Railway despatches. The South Behar districts had indeed been unsupplied, but this was in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, and it may turn out to be quite safe to leave these districts without any further supply of Government grain whatever. Meanwhile, the carts which were

collected for the transport of grain to Gya were diverted to Tirhoot and made useful there. The arrangements detailed at paragraph 11 of the Twelfth Narrative, for relieving to some extent the pressure on the East Indian Railway upwards from Howrah, are coming into effect; the 42,000 maunds a week from the North-West have been arranged for, and one steamer with flats have already carried from Kooshtea half a week's supply to Manick Chuck and Hyatpore; another steamer and pair of flats have been engaged for this line, and as soon as she is at work, the East Indian Railway will be relieved of about 70,000 maunds of upward freight per week. There will remain, however, to go daily by the East Indian Railway—

Arrah for Sarun	... ...	5,000	maunds a day.
Do, for Chumparun	... ...	1,000	„ „
Futwah Ghât for Tirhoot and Chumparun	...	17,000	„ „
Barrh Ghât for Tirhoot	... ...	11,000	„ „
Mokameh for Do.	... ...	6,000	„ „
Monghyr for Do.	... ...	3,000	„ „
Do. for North Bhaugulpore	... ...	5,000	„ „
Sultangunge for Do.	... ...	4,000	„ „
Colgong for Purneah	... ...	5,000	„ „
Caragola for Do.	... ...	5,000	„ „
	TOTAL ...	62,000	maunds
		= 2,214	tons daily.

For every one of these despatches contracts or other arrangements for daily removing the grain into the interior have been made. During the last fortnight all these depôts except two (Barrh Ghât and Mokameh, which last is only newly opened) were despatching grain by cart into the interior at a rate equal to what is above given. So that, even allowing for the relief given at Futwah Ghât and Rajmehal, the East Indian Railway must carry 2,200 tons of Government grain daily from Howrah, without allowing anything for reserves at depôts across the Ganges, or for the supply of new requirements, such as Maunbhoom or the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Mokameh siding.

20. During the fortnight under review a third siding from the East Indian Railway down to the Ganges at Mokameh was completed and opened: 6,000 maunds of Government grain is now going thither.

Eastern Bengal Railway.

21. The despatches of Government grain by the Eastern Bengal Railway averaged 804 tons a day; and that line can carry much more if need arises.

Ferrying grain across the Ganges.

22. All the grain received at the railway stations is now ferried over the Ganges quite as rapidly as it can be supplied from Calcutta. The only place regarding which any anxiety is at present felt is the crossing from Kooshtea to Godagaree, Manick Chuck, and Hyatpore. A good deal of this ferry duty used to be done by native boats; but now that the west winds have set in, they cannot get up the river within any reasonable time, and accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged that before the end of the month an additional steamer with two flats shall be put on the Kooshtea berth. The Lieutenant-Governor, when he visited the Barrh Ghât ferry, was doubtful whether all the five steamers and their flats allotted to the Patna Division crossings were really required there, and careful inquiry is being made on this point; meanwhile, until it is clear that the steamers are not, or will not be, required, they are not to be withdrawn.

Transport of grain from the River Ganges.

23. The work of transporting the Government grain, mainly by cart, but partly also by pack-bullock and boats, from the depôts on the north bank of the river, is going on for the most part very smoothly and well. Taking the several routes in the

order given at paragraph 19 above, we come first to the depôt opposite Arrah, whence every maund of grain, regularly as it comes, is removed by cart into the interior of Sarun and Chumparun. No reserve has yet been formed at this depôt. Next comes the Bunker Ghât depôt, opposite to Patna, whence from 25,000 to 28,000 maunds (about 1,000 tons) daily have been regularly carted away during the last fortnight. The pressure at Bunker Ghât depôt has recently been slightly eased by taking some of the Chumparun grain *viâ* Arrah; but the transport contractors and officers on this route have worked most successfully hitherto. A reserve equal to about two days' supply has been collected at this depôt.

Sarun route.

Bunker Ghât route.

24. From the Chumpta Ghât depôt the transport contractors have not done nearly so well. They engaged to carry away 17,000 maunds of grain a day: for the first fortnight of their contract their despatches barely averaged 7,000 maunds a day, and at one time they were down to 3,000 maunds a day. During a part of the last week, however, they have worked up again to 12,000 a day; they have struck out another route from Monghyr up into south-east Durbungah, by which they hope to carry 3,000 maunds a day. It remains to be seen whether the contractors will work up to their engagement. Grain is greatly wanted in the part of Durbungah which they are to supply, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who was in consultation with the local officers on the spot, deemed it better to let the contractors redeem the ground they had lost rather than attempt to improvise a new agency. The contractors for North Bhaugulpore, who carry their grain from depôts opposite Monghyr and Sultangunge, have, during the fortnight, worked up to the terms of their agreement, and had carried away from the riverside about 7,000 maunds a day.

Chumpta Ghât and other East Tirhoot routes.

North Bhaugulpore route.

25. For the Purneah transport there are no large European contractors: the work is done by petty native contractors, who provide ten or twenty carts apiece. Mr. Hankey, Transport Inspector, has given much attention to this route; and the Purneah transport agency, which at the beginning of February lifted barely 2,000 maunds a day from Caragola, has despatched during the first ten days of March 9,800 maunds daily.

Purneah route.

26. The pack-bullock and cart routes from Hyatpore and Manick Chuck (opposite Rajmehal) into North Dinagepore and Maldah are already carrying between them 4,000 maunds a day, which is beyond the highest estimate previously made of their capabilities. From Godagaree and Rampore Beauleah daily despatches up to 8,000 and 9,000 maunds are being made into Dinagepore and Maldah, besides about 2,000 maunds a day which the Northern Bengal Railway works are receiving *viâ* Dhaparee and the Burrul River. The Bograh District is transporting to its stores and onward into South-East Dinagepore all the grain it receives. Rungpore has hitherto sent on about 2,500 maunds a day from its depôt at Kaligunge on the Berhampootra. If the total allotment for this district should now be increased, the transporting power will no doubt be expanded.

Rajshahye Division routes.

27. The Lieutenant-Governor, when thus reviewing what is being done to transport Government grain into the interior of the most distressed districts, is glad to be able to say that the divisional and district officers of Bengal have in this matter been able to organize and to carry out all that was required, and more than was expected, of them. Sir George Campbell would add that the services of the officers of the Quarter Master General's and Commissariat Departments have most zealously and effectively seconded the labors of the civil officers, and have, by maintaining the roads and by organizing the long strings of carts, contributed most materially to the successful result which has, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, been secured. Up to the present date the cattle which draw the grain carts are said to be generally in good condition; fodder and water has been everywhere provided, and with the exception of the Chumpta Ghât failure, which is being remedied, there is no present sign of a break-down being probable.

General review of transport business.

Services of military officers.

Quantity of Government grain in final stores.

Out of the total of 167,000 tons of Government grain shown (at paragraph 21 above) as despatched to the distressed districts up to date, the quantities which have reached their final destination are, by the latest returns,—

	Tons.
Patna Division	43,808
Bhaugulpore	22,981
Rajshahye	14,877
TOTAL .	81,666

The returns on which these figures are based do not show the actual facts for some districts up to a later date than the 7th March, so that at the present time of writing there must be close upon 95,000 tons actually in store. As yet these stores have been hardly drawn upon at all, so that the relief operations will start everywhere with a considerable stock of Government grain in hand, a stock, moreover, which is being rapidly increased by the transport agencies of the several districts.

Relief works.

28. The fortnightly returns of persons employed on Government relief works will be found enclosed. The number of people receiving relief in this shape has increased enormously in Northern Tirhoot during the fortnight. Compared with the figures given in the last Narrative (paragraph 18), the numbers employed daily stand thus:—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division	162,267	234,249
Soane Canal works	36,000	29,589
Gunduck Embankments ..	19,240	25,615
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Kurruckpore works) ...	16,310	22,800
Rajshahye Division ...	35,940	54,832
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, Chota Nagpore, and Cooch Behar ..	11,754	19,219
Northern Bengal Railway ...	6,200	7,000
TOTAL ...	287,711	393,304

At paragraphs 10 and 11 has been given a notice of what the Lieutenant-Governor himself saw on the Tirhoot works. There the people were gathered together in enormous crowds on single works; in Sarun, on the other hand, the work-people are scattered over more than a hundred and forty different works, some large and some small. In Sarun, Dinagepore, and Chumparun the works are supervised and directed mainly by civil officers, by planters and by persons locally engaged. From Tirhoot there has been much demand for additional Public Works subordinates; and recently further indents for assistance of the same kind has been received from other districts. For the superior supervision of relief works sufficient arrangement has been made; an additional Superintending Engineer, two additional Executive Engineers, and some few more Assistants have been sent to North Behar. Two Subordinates and one Assistant Engineer have been sent up to Palamow, where over 6,000 work-people are now employed daily. But other indents have not yet been complied with, because all available men are being sent to North Behar in compliance with the requisitions of the local officers, supported by Sir. R. Temple. The Government of India have most promptly complied with a request for the loan of 25 overseers from other provinces; some of these men have already joined in North Tirhoot, and others are on their way. So far as is possible, all the demands for professional assistance will be met even if it be necessary to take unpassed students from the Calcutta and Roorkee Engineering Colleges; but, as was explained in last Narrative (see paragraph 19), the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that much may be done towards supervising works through the relief officers of all grades. Special orders drawing the attention of all civil officers to this part of their relief duties, and to the need for seeing that the wages really reach the work-people, have been issued.

Distinction between regular and merely subsistence relief works.

During the fortnight, Colonel Nicolls, the Chief Engineer, has presented a review of all the relief work schemes now in hand or projected, pointing out the weak points of each,

and setting forth how far these works will suffice for the employment of all the labourers who may come upon the hands of Government. Colonel Nicolls' note has been circulated to officers in the distressed districts, together with orders directing that the labouring poor should, as soon as possible, be separated into (1) the able-bodied who can and wish to earn a full day's wage, and who should be employed on regular public works under Engineer officers, and on the ordinary system; and (2) less competent work-people who can or wish to earn merely subsistence wages, and who should be employed in small numbers on petty works. These smaller works are to be under the management of civil and relief officers, and they should be, as far as possible, undertakings in which local residents take an interest so as to secure effective supervision by local agency. These orders by no means imply that all people who want relief must be put on works of some kind, for the charitable relief by grants of food, by loans of money or grain, and by advances, will be outside the relief works. But inasmuch as the great pauper populations of North Behar seem very much disposed to come upon the works, and to prefer relief in that shape, it is desirable that the relief work administration should be systematised, and the previous instructions on the subject have been reaffirmed.

Tools for work-people.

29. From Tirhoot also emergent indents have been recently received for a very large number (60,000) of tools for relief works. These have now all been supplied; but it has become necessary to order further supplies of tools, as the depôts in Calcutta were being cleared out. Forty-five thousand more tools will reach Bengal from Agra during the month of March; 42,000 are at the present time being landed in Calcutta; 90,000 are still on the way out from England; these, together with such supplies as can be obtained locally during April and May, will, it is believed, suffice for all demands. Up to the present date 126,000 hoes and picks have been supplied to the famine districts; 182,000 more are either in depôt or on the way from Europe and from Northern India.

Charitable relief.

30. Since the submission of the last Narrative, the Government of India, has, in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Central Relief Committee, made certain revisions in the "Instructions to Relief Committees," and has issued a very important order, dated the 6th March, reminding all local officers that "it is their duty to see that arrangements for the relief of distress are adequate within the area under their charge, and that they will be held responsible that no deaths from starvation occur which could have been avoided by any exertion or arrangements within their power and the means placed at their command." The working of relief committees and relief officers is placed under district officers and Commissioners of divisions; much discretion is left to local officers, who are authorised to adopt special measures to meet special emergencies. The invariable use of any test, either in the shape of labour or in the shape of cooked food, is not prescribed; and *the* great object set before all civil relief officers and relief officers, is to search out distress and to relieve it in the best way the instructions allow, or circumstances may permit. Special attention is drawn to the need for systematically and liberally making advances of grain to ryots and others who, though now in sore straits, may probably be able to make repayment in future years, and at present need food to sustain themselves and their families while the land is being prepared for the next autumn crop.

Organization of relief.

31. At paragraphs 22—25 of last (the Twelfth Narrative) was given some account of the progress made in organising charitable relief in each district. At paragraphs 10 and 11 of the present Narrative have been related the arrangements making in North Tirhoot under the Lieutenant-Governor's own eyes. As yet the only tracts where there is already general distress or famine among large classes of the population are North Tirhoot and North Chumparun; and it may be well to give here, in the words of the Sub-Divisional Officers in actual charge, an account of what has been, or was being, actually done up to the first week in March. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Durbungah writes:—

"The system of relief which we are now carrying out, and which has been in its main features originated by Sir Richard Temple, differs radically from all

systems which previous famines brought into operation. The key-note of our system is the prevention of the assemblage at any centre of large masses of indigent persons, and the establishment in every village of relief operations, bringing to the doors of those able to work remunerative labor, and to the doors of those unable to work gratuitous relief.

"To this end Sir Richard divided the sub-division into two relief sub-divisions (allowing, however, the controlling influence of the Sub-Divisional Officer to remain), and re-divided these again into twelve circles, and promised for each circle a competent administrative officer, of whom, however, I with regret remark in passing, only three have arrived.

"The details of the system it was given to us to work out; for, although certain rules were laid down by the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta, those rules were somewhat vague, and were burdened with returns and statements it would be impossible to submit. Those rules have since been cancelled. The system you have for this sub-division approved of is the following :—

"Premising that it was necessary to connect the Circle Superintendents or Sub-Committee Officers with the people, it was evident that the circle should be sub-divided to such a manageable extent as to permit of the Relief Officer being, if not in all cases personally acquainted with the general condition of each group, at all events vicariously acquainted with the intimate state of every village. Therefore the circle was sub-divided into as many village groups as would allow of one subordinate officer visiting daily or at most once every two days each village in the group. The maximum number of *whole* villages, which, with this object in view, could be safely included in a group, was fixed at ten. As Inspector and Executive Officer under the Superintendent for each group, an educated respectable resident is chosen; it being a most desirable thing that in the relief operations local knowledge should be, if possible, utilised. To aid the Inspectors so appointed in procuring information, bringing relief where wanted, and supervising village relief works, two peons (messengers) are attached to the Inspector, and the chowkidars (watchmen) in each village in the group are also to report to the Inspector the state of their villages daily. The Inspector is to submit daily to the Superintendent a statement under prescribed headings, showing the condition of the group under him. He is to see that sufficient work is provided for the storing, and that fit subjects for charitable relief are not denied it. He is to give orders on the store-keeper for raw materials, and is to see that the manufactured product is duly paid for by the store-keeper, and is to be responsible for the due expenditure of the money allotted for village relief work. This completes the intelligence and executive department, in which I have striven to utilise as much as possible local knowledge and neighbourly feeling.

"It would be manifestly useless to know where distress lay if we had not at hands the means to alleviate it. We had, therefore, to bring home to each group of villages remunerative labor for the strong and gratuitous charitable relief for the weak.

"This we did by opening, in a conveniently situated village of the group, a relief work, such as excavation of a tank, calculated to employ the people and benefit them in addition. We also established in each group of villages a local grain-store, drawing its supplies from the circle depôt at which the village labourers might procure food with the wages of their labor. Attached to this store is a depôt where cotton may be obtained by respectable females in indigent circumstances desirous of supporting themselves; and in charge of this local grain-store is a mohurir (clerk), whose duty it is to keep a few simple forms and make necessary returns to the Superintendent, see that grain is sold to the labourers and distributed to those on gratuitous relief. As a matter of detail, I may mention that this local grain-store, when established in a group in which there is a depôt, is entrusted to a bunneah (local dealer), the depôt-keeper in this case making returns. In all other cases the mohurir has a bunneah under him to sell. A peon is attached to the store.

"This is the outline of the system. Now I give you an example of its working. Being anxious to give Messrs. Marindin and Harris a clearer conception of their duty than any verbal explanation could give, I went with them to

Bahera and formed a group round Bahera ; on entering each village in the group, we had all the poor collected. Those unable to work we at once put on gratuitous relief, subsequently forming a register of such, showing the number on the register of each, his name, residence, and quantity of gratuitous relief he was entitled to, and giving him a ticket with these particulars inscribed on it, and directing him to present it at the local store weekly, where the store-keeper having a duplicate of the register would dispense the requisite relief. Having done this, we proceeded to determine what village relief works might, with due regard to the want of the people and the propinquity of imperial works, be commenced, and the village agency to work them. Having settled this point, we proceeded to find out the number of females who were desirous of spinning cotton, and issued orders accordingly. Having seen all the village headmen and respectable residents, we finally appointed an Inspector, fixed on a local rice store, and in the case of this circle, appointed a bunneah to the charge of it."

The Sub-Divisional Officer of North Chumparun writes :—

"The sub-divisional committee of Ramnugger, with the two sub-committees at Bulthur under Colonel Boulderson and at Bagaha, are now in full working order. I visit Bagaha once a fortnight, when a meeting is held and measures for relief are discussed.

Joint Magistrate of Ramnugger	*Chairman.*
Mr. Christien	*Members.*
„ Moore	
„ Blake	
„ Brooke	
Sree Autar Misser, of Narayanpore	
Ramnarain, of Bagaha	

"The tuppah (Bulthur) has been divided into halkas (circles), and each member is to take charge of one. Lists of all the poor requiring relief are prepared by the putwarees (village accountants) and tested by the member in charge of the halkas, who is also responsible for the distribution of food to those in the lists whom he, after examining, finds unfit for work.

"At Bagaha we have a dispensary, hospital, and poor-house, and a native doctor from Hurnatar has arrived. Sickness at Hurnatar has, I am happy to say, decreased, so his remaining there is not necessary. The dispensary is ready, being a very conveniently situated house placed at our disposal by a native gentleman of the town. The poor-house is being built close by, and temporary relief is being administered in a shed near the thana (police station). * * * * About 200 persons unfit for work are daily fed at the poor-house, which Mr. Christien at present manages, and I am glad to say that great discrimination is used in feeding only those who really cannot work. At present the sub-committee confines its attention (in addition to managing the local poor-houses) to the village-to-village relief system and to collecting statistics. I think it is better at first to do what is absolutely necessary, *viz.*, to support those who otherwise must starve, and gradually to perfect the system in introducing the various rules laid down for committees. In my next fortnightly Narrative I hope to be able to report that much progress has been made; at present I consider what has been done at Bagaha to be very satisfactory. An organized village-to-village relief system has been formed, which will effectually relieve those who must require it. A central poor-house and dispensary has been started, and the local information thus acquired, which will be placed before the committee at the next meeting, will enable us satisfactorily to enlarge our operations.

"At Ramnugger, the dispensary, hospital, and poor work-house, are in full working order; the buildings are nearly complete; and meantime work is done in a shed and a small tent. Seven hundred and ten persons have received relief since the work has been started; 142 out-door patients have received medical relief, and all of these (710) were persons utterly unable to work, either from sickness, old age, or physical incapacity. In tuppah Deoraj I have under the village-to-village system 347 persons of this class who daily receive relief. These I have examined in person, and found they were utterly unfit at present

even for the lightest work. Most of them have been reduced by sickness as well as want of food, and altogether the condition of these unfortunates is pitiable. I distribute food for these twice a week, and I am much assisted in this tuppah by Sheik Salamut Ally, an influential and public-spirited zemindar. In this tuppah the headmen of each village and the putwarees receive a certain amount of food sufficient to last the poor of his village, of whom he receives a list (an extract from my register), and whom he is bound to supply twice a week. The greatest safeguard against abuse is the fact that the poor themselves know how much they are entitled to; and secondly, there is constant inspection both by Sheik Salamut Ally, who is a member of the committee, and myself. In this way this important tuppah is provided for, and similar steps for the others are also being taken. In my next fortnightly report I trust that generally throughout the sub-division our charitable relief system will be fully organised and in complete working order."

In the districts of Sarun, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Maldah, and Rungpore, a good deal of charitable relief is being given at poor-houses, but the applicants (to the number of nearly 4,000 in all) are mainly beggars, sick and infirm persons, and destitute women who cannot work, and in ordinary years would be supported by private charity. In Rungpore and Sarun arrangements are being made to distribute advances of grain and sometimes of money to ryots and other residents who, in ordinary years, are well-to-do. In none of the other distressed districts is there reported to be any present need for charitable relief.

Central relief committee.

32. The Executive Committee of the Central Relief Fund have now at their disposal—

	Rs.
Indian Subscriptions	5,08,539
English and Scotch	5,20,990
Government contribution...	5,33,085
TOTAL ...	15,62,614=£156,261

They have drawn up and published a précis of their proceedings up to the 4th March. As it would be costly and undesirable to maintain two establishments side by side in the famine districts, and as the responsibility for searching out and relieving distress rests upon Government and its officers, the Central Committee have withdrawn from executive control over the relief organization; they grant funds to distressed districts on good cause being shown, and they will obtain, for the information of their subscribers and of the public, reports and accounts of all the charitable funds that may be spent. It has not been possible, without weakening responsibility and impairing the efficiency of the relief organization, to maintain a clear distinction between the relief objects on which Government funds and those on which charitable subscriptions are to be spent.

Advances.

33. According to the district reports the amount of advances made in the distressed, and in other threatened districts, up to the end of February was—

	Rs.
Advances for purchase of grain	10,53,185
„ for land improvements	1,68,486
„ to Zemindars to help their ryots	2,55,359
„ to Municipalities under the Local Public Works Loans Act	24,000
TOTAL	15,01,030

The fullest scope has been given to the Government orders in these matters in the Sarun District, where Mr. Drummond and his subordinates have advanced—

	Rs.
For purchase of grain	3,26,500
„ land improvements	51,853
„ advances to ryots	1,34,789
„ Municipal improvements	10,000
TOTAL ...	5,23,132

The latest district narratives show that in Sarun advances for helping ryots are still liberally taken. Seeing that in most cases these advances will certainly be recovered, every rupee advanced is a clear saving to the public treasury and a benefit to the country, as it either secures the execution of permanent improvements, or else saves future relief expenditure which cannot be recovered. During the next few weeks one of the most difficult and important tasks which devolve on civil and relief officers will be the distribution of advances of grain to ryots in the tracts where the supply is absolutely short.

Burdwan Division.

34. Among the tracts which are not yet absolutely *distressed*, but regarding which the Lieutenant-Governor has had much anxiety, the Burdwan Division is the largest and most important. It will be seen from the Commissioner's report, and the district narratives for that division, that prices, though high, are a little easier than they were a month ago. There is no general distress reported from any part of the division. Supplies of food in the local markets are generally sufficient. More than 9,000 persons are employed on relief works; and a certain amount of relief labour is being given to people at their homes. The Collectors are gradually disposing of the applications for loans for land improvement; over Rs. 70,000 have already been advanced, and many private relief works are in hand. Charitable relief is being given at two places in Burdwan, at seven places in Hooghly, and at four places in Beerbhoom; at these relief-houses 252 people are being relieved, besides a number of pauper weavers who are supplied with materials, and the large number who daily attend the poor-houses maintained by the Maharajah of Burdwan. The Lieutenant-Governor has suggested that one useful form of relief for the broken-down weavers of the Burdwan Division would be the introduction of the lucrative jute manufacture in place of the decaying cotton industry. The Lieutenant-Governor has also invited the attention of executive officers in Calcutta and its suburbs and in the towns on the banks of the Hooghly to the need for having works, and possibly relief, ready for pauper immigrants who may perhaps flock to the centres of population upon the Hooghly.

Chota Nagpore.

35. Colonel Dalton has now completed his tour throughout his division: he is satisfied that the chiefs of the tributary states will not let their people starve; he is anxious only about Palamow, part of Maunbhoom, and perhaps a part of Hazareebaugh. The measures already taken for opening relief works and storing grain in Palamow will, the Commissioner anticipates, suffice to meet the distress; already 5,200 people are on the Government works in the sub-division, and the numbers are increasing. For Hazareebaugh an allotment has been made to enable the Deputy Commissioner to make advances for the purchase of grain, and considerable grants have been made for public works. In the parts of Maunbhoom nearest to the railway there are already threatenings of distress: the Deputy Commissioner has asked that Government grain may be imported. The question is awaiting Sir Richard Temple's decision on the spot; meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to prepare his storage and carting arrangements. During the last fortnight the Behar demands on the railways have been so great that no grain could have been sent to Maunbhoom.

Nuddea.

36. The condition of Nuddea is fairly satisfactory. The food supplies are sufficient, but the poorer classes are unable to buy food at present rates unless they can earn wages on relief works. The Government and the many private relief works are supplying this requirement.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

37. The latest Narrative from the Sonthal Pergunnahs shows that there is no present need for anxiety in that district. Prices were at one time very high in one small tract where relief works were going on, and 10,000 maunds of Government grain have been imported for the use of those labourers; but the grain has not yet been actually used, and prices have fallen. From non-official quarters reports of impending distress in the Sonthal Pergunnahs have reached the Government, but, so far as can be ascertained, there is no present need for special measures beyond the opening of relief works. Sir Richard Temple is at the present time meeting

the Sonthal Pergunnahs' officers, and he will decide whether any further steps must be immediately taken.

Northern Bengal Railway.

38. On the Northern Bengal Railway works and on the railway feeder roads there are now about 7,000 persons employed. Labourers are abundant on the northern section of the line, but to the south in the Rajshahye District "labor is procured with difficulty." On the northern section of the line grain is obtainable by the work people from the local markets at the price of 10 seers the rupee; on the southern section food is cheaper. Most of the labourers are paid by task work; those who are on daily wages receive about 2½ to 3½ annas for a full day's work. As yet there is not nearly sufficient local labor available to finish the railway bank throughout its whole length.

Irrigation Department works.

39. The daily average of labourers on the Soane Canal works has fallen to 29,589. There is now much employment in the fields on the spring harvest, so that the local labourers are leaving the works. Food is supplied to the labourers from the local markets at about 12 seers per rupee. At one point on the works rice was selling at 9 seers per rupee, but wheat was at the same place obtainable at 14 seers. The number of labourers on the Sarun and Chumparun embankments has risen to 25,615 from 19,000 as shown in last Narrative. The numbers are said to be still increasing; and as the embankment works will probably be completed by the middle of April, sanction has been given to excavating an irrigation channel (88 miles long) along the rear of the Chumparun embankment: this work had previously been approved by the Government of India. Details of the project for a similar channel behind the Sarun embankment are being worked up, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes shortly to be in a position to ask sanction to the commencement of the high level canal which is to run through the north of Tirhoot and Chumparun from the Gunduck to the Koosee: the project has been completed in full detail as far as the Bagmuttee river. The reconstruction of the dam across the Damooda, from which water is let into the Kana Nuddee, is being pushed on.

Durbungah Railway.

40. The State Railway from the Ganges to Durbungah in Tirhoot is being rapidly pushed on. On the 16th March, sixteen miles of line had been laid, and the material train was running up to the sixteenth mile. One engine and twenty ballast wagons constitute the whole of the present rolling-stock, but parts of two more engines have arrived at Barrh. The Engineer-in-Chief hopes to finish the forty-four miles into Durbungah by the end of April, and effort will be made to get ample rolling-stock on to the road, so that large supplies of grain may be lifted directly the line is completed.

Returns of crime.

41. Enclosed will be found the return of crimes against property in each distressed district during the month of February as compared with previous years. It will be seen that the total of these crimes is nearly double the total for ordinary years. But the increase is not universal over all districts. For instance, in Rungpore, where there is much distress, crime is very little above the ordinary level. In Sarun also the increase is inconsiderable over the average of past years.

Extra officers employed in the famine districts.

42. The number of additional civil and military officers already employed in famine and distressed districts is not yet complete, for the native civil officers (over twenty in number) coming from the North-Western Provinces, the native officers of the army, and the natives of Bengal specially engaged for work as assistant superintendents of relief circles are not yet included in the lists. The returns show that—

	53	Covenanted civil servants,
	60	Military commissioned officers of the army,
	68	Uncovenanted officers of the Police and Native Civil Service,
	22	persons specially engaged,
TOTAL . .	203	officers,

have already gone to the distressed districts. This number is inclusive of Public Works Department officers and subordinates, of the companies of native troops (sappers and native infantry), and of the non-commissioned native

officers who have been sent. It will be seen from these lists that the Government of India have fully and promptly complied with the indents and requisitions made by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Medical requirements of the famine districts.

43. Happily there has as yet been no outbreak of cholera or other epidemic among any of the bodies of people collected on relief works, or on any of the grain routes. Many of the people who come for relief are, however, more or less emaciated, and some are suffering from different diseases. It has been arranged, therefore, that a small medical establishment shall be stationed in every relief circle, on some of the larger relief works, and at some of the larger grain depôts. Large and sudden indents have been made on the Medical Department for native doctors and other medical subordinates. A report from Dr. Campbell Brown shows how these requisitions have been and are being met. The report is not a final report, but it shows that three officers of the Indian Medical Service, one sub-assistant surgeon, and about sixty native doctors have already joined their duty in the famine districts, and twenty more are on their way. The Surgeon-General has caused packages of medicines and necessaries to be made up in Calcutta and sent to each native doctor who opens a famine hospital. The full staff of compounders has not yet been made up, but it will be completed before long. Next Narrative will show precisely where each medical subordinate is stationed.

Small bags for Government rice and for relief house purposes.

44. In a previous Narrative it was stated that the two-maund bags in which Government rice is packed were inconvenient for pack bullock carriage, and also for carrying grain on men's heads to relief centres and villages in the interior. Arrangements have been made whereby some 60 or 70,000 tons of the Government grain will be packed in one-maund and thirty-seer (61 lbs.) bags; and grain packed in these small bags is being sent to those parts of the country where pack bullocks and small boats are chiefly used for transporting grain. At the same time 1,57,600 empty bags to hold 30 seers a piece have been distributed to the different districts, and will be available at grain depôts and relief centres for sending Government grain into the interior.

No. 14.

Fourteenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 20th March to the 2nd April 1874.

The weather of the fortnight has been singularly favorable. There has been rain* over a great part of Bengal proper, where it was wanted for the early rice and for other early crops, and where it has enabled the people to occupy themselves in preparing the ground for the later crops. If, as is often the case in seasons like the present, rain continues to fall in Bengal from time to time during the next three months, all these early crops will do very well, and the early rice (September crop) will make a fair start. In Behar, where heavy rain would have done harm to the spring crops, very little has fallen, and the hail which fell in certain limited tracts did but little damage. The spring crops have thus been for the most part successfully harvested, and the little rain that fell did some good to the *cheena* (early millet) now in the ground. Now that the wheat, barley, and other spring crops have been nearly reaped, much will depend in Behar on whether we get good rain during April. The unfortunate tracts in Tirhoot, which most suffered from the failure of the rice crops, having little other crops to reap, still suffer from the continued want of rain, and their water-supply is beginning to fail. The people are now anxiously looking out for rain, not only for the petty crops on the ground, but also for a supply of water and grass, and to enable them to plough the land and sow indigo and

Rainfall of the fortnight, in inches, at some of the principal district head-quarters.

Burdwan	1·14
Beerbhoom	0·38
Calcutta	0·0
Nuddea	0·87
Maldah	0·0
Dinagepore	0·0
Dacca	3·43
Sylhet	4·51
Tipperah	2·84
Patna	0·32
Tirhoot	0·0
Chumparun	0·10
Bhaugulpore	0·0
Lohardugga	0·65

some other crops. In Tirhoot the land has been so parched by continuous drought that without copious rain during the next few weeks preparations for the next crop will be difficult and early sowings impossible.

Price of grain.

2. In Western Bengal there has been little change of prices during the fortnight. In Calcutta, and over the greater part of Eastern Bengal, prices are somewhat easier than they were at the time of last Narrative; but there has been a general rise of prices over the Rajshahye Division. In North Behar also common rice has become somewhat dearer during the fortnight. In Monghyr an abundant spring crop has brought prices down. The price of wheat, barley, maize, and other staples has not grown dearer during the fortnight, and the comparative steadiness of the price of these grains is some make weight against the rise in the price of rice. The returns furnished by the Chamber of Commerce show that, on the 27th March, the price of rice had fallen about 3 per cent. in Calcutta; but for the rest of the fortnight prices were steady, though the demand was limited. The price currents for the two weeks are enclosed. The present quotations for some of the principal districts compare with the prices of rice shown in preceding Narratives as follows :—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.			
	On 31st Jan.	On 28th Feb.	On 14th March.	On 28th March.
Burdwan ...	14	13½	13	13¼
Beerbhoom ...	12⅜	12½	13½	13½
Hooghly ...	11 to 12	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½	12 to 13
Calcutta .	12½	12¼	12½	13
Dinagepore ...	13¼	14	12¾	10¾
Maldah ...	11¾	12	12	9½
Rungpore ...	11¼	11¼	11⅛	11½
Dacca ...	16	14	12	13
Backergunge ...	16½	15	16	16
Chittagong ...	18	16½	13	16½
Noakhally ...	17½	13	13	15
Patna ...	12	13½	13	12
Shahabad ...	13	12½	12¼	12¾
Tirhoot ...	10	10	9½	8½
Chumparun ...	11¾	11	12	10¼
Bhaugulpore ...	12⅝	11⅜	13¾	11¼
Lohardugga ...	15½	16	15	14
Maunbhoom ...	15	14½	14	14½

Other grains, maize, pulses, commonly used in Behar, were selling by the latest returns at from 13 to 14 seers per rupee in Tirhoot; 13 seers in Chumparun, 16 to 17 seers in Sarun, and 18 to 20 seers in Patna.

State of the crops.

3. There is little to add to what was said in last Narrative regarding the outturn of the spring crops. The harvest has been very good so far as it goes, and from more than one district it has been reported that the ears of wheat and barley are fuller than was expected. The early spring rice is doing well, and so also is the early millet (*cheena*) up to the present date. The reports of the last fortnight unfortunately give no ground for hoping that the spring crops of North Tirhoot will be fuller than was expected at the time of the last Narrative. North Tirhoot and a small strip of North Chumparun are the only Behar tracts wherein the spring crops have not contributed largely to help the people through the difficulties of the present season. From two districts of East Bengal, report was eceived that the heavy rain of the 23rd March had to some extent retarded rgriculture. But subsequent open weather has remedied any temporary diffiaculty of this kind, and the early crops all promise well. The April crop of mulberry leaves, and the outturn of silk during that month, promise to be unusually good. In parts of Midnapore, Rajshahye, Moorshedabad, Beerbhoom, and some other districts the April silk crop is of much importance to the ryots. The crop of *mohwa* flower, which in the wilder parts of the country to the west forms a large part of the food of the poor during April and May, promises to be good everywhere, except in a part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Supply of grain.

4. The supply of grain in the principal local markets at the prices quoted is sufficient, except in parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Purneah, Rungpore, and Palamow. From one or

two places it is reported that people who went to buy their weekly supply of rice at the nearest bazaar had to come back without it; but, on the whole, the local supplies of grain are maintained wonderfully well. Even in part of Tirhoot, where there was not more than one-eighth of an average autumn crop, and where there has been hardly any spring harvest at all, the chief *entrepôts* had plenty of grain, and the local markets are fairly well supplied—an active petty trade having been hitherto maintained, and supplies brought up from the Ganges and the Railway. In several places where the Government grain stores were opened to the work people or to the public comparatively little of the Government grain was purchased. Indeed, it is only in North Chumparun and a part of Purneah and in Tirhoot on the works that any considerable quantities of Government grain are being sold, either to work people or to the public, through the local dealers. From some of the tracts in Tirhoot through which Government grain is being most largely carried, fears have been expressed lest the private supplies in the bazaars should run short, because dealers are unable to replenish their stores from outside owing to want of carriage. The sub-divisional officer of Tajpore, through whose jurisdiction are carried the supplies of grain for North Tirhoot, writes: "I am anxious about the bazaar supplies: the contractors from Chumpta Ghât have lately taken to using pack animals. * * * I do not know how this great importing sub-division has been hitherto supplied, with nearly all its carts drawn off to feed those tracts which usually export to it; but of this I am certain, that if pack bullocks are also taken up, the bazaar supplies must fail." Results like this cannot, in view of the great operations Government have undertaken, be altogether avoided; but the local officers have been desired to do all they can to mitigate the evil, and they have been especially prohibited from using any sort of compulsion to bring into Government service the pack animals employed on the private trade.

Private importations of grain.

5. There is still no considerable import of grain on private account from beyond sea. But into some of the distressed districts grain still flows briskly from other parts of India. The Sarun District continues to receive supplies from outside, much of which comes down the Gograh River from Oudh. Rungpore, Bogra, Rajshahye, and Maldah are supplied to a considerable extent from East Bengal, but of the amount of these supplies Government has no precise statistics. The import of private grain by railway into Behar was—

From the North-Western Provinces and Punjab ...	... 17,928	tons for the fortnight ending the 21st March.
From Calcutta and places in Bengal ...	7,737	ditto ditto.
TOTAL ...	25,665	tons during the fortnight,

or a daily importation of 1,833 tons of private grain into Behar. The greater part of this large quantity is consigned to Patna station, where there was a considerable block of the traffic during the fortnight, the railway stations being insufficiently provided with the necessary facilities for so large a traffic. Active steps have been taken to remedy this difficulty, and it is hoped that it has been met.

The grain thus imported has hitherto found its way by various petty channels into many parts of Behar, both north and south of the river.

Grain trade from the Punjab.

6. In the last Narrative it was stated that there was much grain waiting in the Punjab to come down into the famine districts. During the fortnight under report the Railway officer deputed to inquire into the matter by the Government of India has furnished his report. He finds that 23,580 tons of grain are waiting on the station premises of the Punjab Railway for means of transport to Benares and Behar. The chief adviser of the Punjab Government in railway matters believes that four times as much more grain is stored in bazaars and serais, waiting for wagons to carry it down to the distressed tracts. The Consulting Engineer to the Government of India reports that before the end of March a fixed and uniform despatch of 1,250 tons of grain from the Punjab to the famine districts ought to be considered a certainty. The difference

between the prices of grain in the Punjab and Behar is so great that the profits on the traffic are large; and the Railway officer who conducted the inquiry reports that under present circumstances "it is absolutely certain that the supply of private grain to the railway will continue fully equal to its carrying power;" while it is clear that no "room can be found for Government grain transport without interfering with private trade."

Export of grain by sea.

7. In the usual note on the movement of food grains will be found a statement furnished by the Collector of Customs, putting the total export of food grain from Bengal by sea for the five months, from October to end of February, (and this figure may be finally accepted as correct) at 173,161 tons.

The authorized figures for the exports of the month of March have not yet been received; but it is certain that the exports from Calcutta and Chittagong have much diminished. From the Orissa ports the exports continue to be moderate. So far as advices have been received, the exports of food grains from Bengal for the month of March amount in round numbers to about 16,500 tons; so that the total export of food from Bengal during the six months ending on the 31st March will be about 190,000 tons. The Lieutenant-Governor some time back expressed his belief that the exports up to April would be from 150,000 to 200,000 tons. A recent report states that a fresh demand for the Mauritius is shortly expected in Calcutta, while something more may go from Orissa; so that it is not unlikely that the total will not fall far short of the larger figure named by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Condition of the people.

8. The district narratives show that, with the one exception of Tirhoot, to be noticed more fully below, the condition of the people is decidedly good and hopeful. Indeed, this feature is so prominent in the narratives that it may well be the subject of much thankfulness. The accounts of North Chumparun, where, next after North Tirhoot, the famine is severest, show that by relief works, by selling Government grain, by advances, and by means of a thorough system of charitable and medical relief, distress is being arrested and relieved; and for the present, at any rate, the Lieutenant-Governor feels confident that the Government agency and means on the spot will suffice to meet the famine. In other districts where distress had threatened actual famine has not yet appeared, and the local officers seem quite confident that their preparations are sufficiently advanced to meet distress when it comes; and it seems also that the people, though they expect scarcity and very high prices, believe that, with the help of Government, they will get through their difficulties. From Dinagepore the Magistrate writes that "prices are rising," and "the supply of grain is becoming exhausted;" but "there is wonderfully little distress among the people;" * * * "and it is beyond question that the commencement of relief operations, and consequent diffusion of money throughout the country, as soon as there was any apprehension of scarcity, has enabled the people to meet it with confidence and vigour." From Maldah and Bogra it is reported that the condition of the people has not changed for the worse. From all parts of Sarun it is reported that there is no general distress, as all the poorer classes are on the relief works, while professional beggars and persons unable to work are receiving charitable relief. From Monghyr it is reported "that the condition of the people has improved since the rubbee harvest commenced." No general distress has been reported from North Bhaugulpore; and the latest telegraphic report from that tract is: "Condition of general population, satisfactory." The Purneah Magistrate writes: "I have not seen or heard of any cases of actual starvation, but the number of cases of distress is increasing, and would have been much larger but for the relief afforded by the Government road and relief committees." In South Behar there is at present no distress. The latest report from the Sonthal Pergunnahs is that "the people look well everywhere," though, in parts, the supply of grain is expected soon to fall short. Some days back alarming reports were received about a small tract in Hazareebaugh; but subsequent reports, written after the district officer had visited the spot, are reassuring, and it is stated that the local distress which had appeared has been met. In West Bengal, regarding which densely-peopled and, to some extent, poverty-stricken tract the Lieutenant-Governor has all along been anxious, there are no present signs of probable general distress.

9. There is one large exception to the general condition of affairs described in the foregoing paragraph, and that is the north-eastern portion of the Tirhoot District, where the poorer classes have in the last month come upon the relief works in enormous numbers—now, it is believed, approaching to half a million in all—who are receiving relief in some shape.

Tirhoot.

At the time when the last Narrative was despatched, the Lieutenant-Governor was in Tirhoot, personally superintending the organization of relief measures there. He subsequently visited some more of the distressed circles, and saw the circle officers posted and at work, personally instructing them. He then crossed to Patna, where he again consulted with the Commissioner, and settled some points with Sir Richard Temple, whom he had asked to meet him there. He saw and instructed some more of the officers sent down from the North-Western Provinces, and completed the arrangements for officering the distressed circles of North Behar, after which he returned to Calcutta.

10. The result of the Lieutenant-Governor's further inquiries in Tirhoot do not materially differ from those stated in the last Narrative. As there stated, it is feared that some cases of starvation, to a greater or less degree, have occurred among a few old people who did not come to relief works or relief centres in time, and perhaps, in greater numbers, among young children who have suffered from bad and deficient nourishment, while the parents were living on scanty food, though not starving. But all accounts agree that nowhere has distress been so great as in the Bahera thana of Durbungah, to which allusion has already been made: there only have the symptoms of severe distress been prominent; elsewhere the cases have been very rare and isolated. The Lieutenant-Governor repeats his hope and belief that the progress of distress has now been stayed. Very few deaths have been reported as directly due to starvation; not more then ten or twelve in all. The Government of India having asked the Lieutenant-Governor's personal opinion on this point, it was given as follows:—

Position of affairs when the Lieutenant-Governor left Tirhoot.

Deaths from starvation.

"In times of scarcity and the early stages of famine, it is totally impossible to distinguish deaths accelerated by scarcity and bad food from natural deaths. He has not the least doubt that among a very poor and helpless population, such as exists in North Tirhoot, many people die when food is dear, who would not die, or would not die so soon, if it were cheap. He believes that there have not been deaths from direct starvation among healthy adults; but, from what he saw of the people about Bahera and some of those on the works near Durbungah, he fears that among such a population a good many old, weakly, and sick people must have succumbed to insufficient nourishment. Similarly, as before mentioned, many young children are much emaciated, even when their parents are not so. The Lieutenant-Governor does not believe that the parents starve the children to feed themselves, but only that the children are first affected by scanty and bad fare. This result is much aggravated by the native habit of nursing children for two or three years. A child so nursed suffers much when the mother fares indifferently, and the food for the child fails. The Lieutenant-Governor has already explained the extreme difficulty of saving such children, owing to the unwillingness of the parents to bring them to our hospitals and poor-houses. He himself saw the emaciated children carefully fed with milk at the temporary hospital which he arranged at Bahera, but the mothers strongly resisted staying there in spite of every concession and arrangement that could be made. Under such circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but fear that many children of a weak and sickly character die. Similarly, he believes that some old and infirm people die on account of scanty food. He is happy, however, to say that, so far as he saw and can learn, it is only in the part near Bahera that want has reached the point; that many people are emaciated, and the weakly must in some numbers die. Every attention is now being given to improve matters there."

11. The view expressed in the foregoing extract is much borne out by the Narratives received since this expression of opinion was submitted. In the Tirhoot Narrative will be found mention of reported cases of starvation, into which inquiry was made by European officers, *e. g.*, the body of an old man in the Hathee relief circle of

Recent reports of deaths.

Durbhanga, who was said to have died from starvation, "was in a state of extreme emaciation;" yet "the son of the deceased did not show any signs of suffering from want of food." In a village of Madhoobunnee three males were reported to have died from starvation, but inquiry on the spot showed that two of the deceased "were children of a widower who was himself in a state of rude and well-nourished health." In the Rungpore narrative the Magistrate writes: "There was a report received of a death from starvation in one part of this thana, and I went to the spot two days ago; but the case was that of an old woman of 80 years of age who died from disease." It is, the Lieutenant-Governor fears, a fact that occasionally poor creatures come on the relief works in Tirhoot in a very reduced state; but on all the works, except perhaps in Bahera, the great majority of the people are in tolerably good condition; and when deaths occur it is not possible always to say whether they are due, in whole or in part, to starvation. It may be confidently stated as a fact that up to this time the mortality from any causes among the great number of people collected on the roads, &c., in Tirhoot is singularly small. Indeed, seeing the great numbers and the wretched physical character of many of the old and weakly collected together, the wonder is that there are not more deaths. Among such a population in the best of times there must be deaths of old and reduced people. The district narratives sufficiently show that all Government officers in the distressed districts are very keenly alive to the obligation which lies upon them to save life and to arrest famine, however and whenever they can.

Measures taken in North Tirhoot.

12. While it is hoped that actual starvation has been stayed (unless it be in rare instances which escape all our care), our difficulties in regard to the employment of the people have been much increased in Tirhoot since the last Narrative—that is to say, there has been a rush of people to the works in the Madhoobunnee Sub-division in enormous numbers, still greater than that which the Lieutenant-Governor found in Durbhanga; so much so that the total numbers have approached a quarter of a million in the Madhoobunnee Sub-division, according to the last statements received. It is feared, however, that there has been a good deal of peculation and misstatement in regard to the numbers, which are certainly so large that, coming so suddenly, it is most difficult to deal with them. Mr. Metcalfe has energetically undertaken this task, and it is believed successfully. A large addition has been made to the Public Works staff of the locality, the very best officers being selected and taken from other duties. While the people who come to the works in Madhoobunnee are so numerous, they are not at all so reduced as some of those who come to Durbhanga from the neighbourhood of Bahera; but are generally still strong and healthy, cases of great want and emaciation being very exceptional indeed. It appears that while the population now in the northern tracts of the sub-division are comparatively well off, the whole of the poorer population of those tracts have left their homes, and flocked, together with those of the southern portion, to the net-work of roads near Madhoobunnee, so that some 130,000 are collected in a small circumference. Mr. Metcalfe found some of them who were in perfectly good condition, but who had tasted of the lax state of things, inevitable when a few among them were in great want, and were somewhat inclined to resist any strict counting and due apportionment of work. But he has brought them to order, and done all that can be done meantime. When the Public Works staff is complete, as it will be immediately, and the able-bodied are put on great works under proper discipline, while the weaker are provided for in their own villages, it is hoped that things will settle down into good shape.

Latest intelligence from the spot.

13. Having made immediate arrangements for Madhoobunnee, Mr. Metcalfe has returned to the Durbhanga Sub-division, where he reports that the southern relief circles are now working well and in good order, while the other circles are also being put in good order. Mr. Metcalfe telegraphs on the 31st March thus: "In a ride from Bahera through the worst parts, and in a circuit of twenty miles, I did not find a person without a ticket for relief or uncared for." In a letter just received, Mr. Metcalfe says: "Lists of all persons on charity have been made out, and, as far as I can judge, most honestly by the village putwarees. Grain has been placed in the hands of the jeyt ryots, and in the scores of villages where I went, the most wretched are being fed at their homes by

their headmen. We have also hit off a solution of the labor difficulty, *viz.*, that the weak and incapable have been formed into small gangs, and each gang is required to do the same amount as one able-bodied man. The villagers have taken to this piece work arrangement, and it will save Government much loss from cheating. I am working almost entirely through local men, with here and there an exception. The Bahera road is still the difficulty. Many of the villagers have returned to their homes, of the others some are going; others adhere to the earth-work on the roads. The gangs have been organized into numbers of 1,200, and several gangs placed under a jemadar of one of the cavalry regiments, and this arrangement enables us to count the men with little or no difficulty. There is a great improvement in the appearance of the classes, and I can see nowhere famished persons who are not in some way receiving charitable relief. As regards food, the villagers now have no fear; water is their chief anxiety. I see but little water in the wells. The tanks are dry save the very largest, and unless we have rain, there will be a great scarcity of water. Your instructions regarding relief in the town, through native residents, have been carried out."

The Lieutenant-Governor trusts he may believe that the difficulties in Durbhanga and Madhoobunnee have been met, and that we are now well ahead of the famine there as elsewhere. Already upwards of 12,000 persons are returned as receiving charitable relief in the Durbhanga Sub-division.

Mrs. Metcalfe has taken charge of the poor people and orphans in a large enclosure fitted up for them at Durbhanga, and most of these poor people are said to be getting quite fat.

In Seetamarhee things continue to be more favorably situated, and the numbers on our hands are not excessive—about 40,000 in all.

In the three northern sub-divisions Mr. Metcalfe states that the whole number on the works, or otherwise receiving relief, is about 400,000; and he hopes that we have reached nearly the maximum that we may expect on our hands in that part of the country. It seems hardly possible that the number in Madhoobunnee can be very greatly increased (one-third of the population are already on the roads), but it is impossible to be confident that in other sub-divisions the number may not much increase. In tracts where the spring harvest now occupies the people, we must expect, not improbably, a large addition to the number on the works between the completion of the harvest and the commencement of the rains.

The Tirhoot narrative speaks as if general distress might be imminent in parts of the head-quarters sub-division of Tirhoot. A subsequent letter, however, from the Magistrate of the district, written after visiting the villages named in the narrative, says that the description there given was "exaggerated, and no extreme distress is apparent or expected."

Orders issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on Tirhoot affairs.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor issued various orders in brief form during his visit to Tirhoot. Since his return to Calcutta he has embodied these in a note,* setting forth the orders which he gave and the views which he formed during his visit. To this note the Lieutenant-Governor begs to refer for an explanation of his proceedings and the measures which he has adopted.

Sir Richard Temple's tour.

15. At paragraph 17 of the last Narrative it was mentioned that Sir Richard Temple had visited the Purneah and Dinagepore Districts, and his report on Purneah was then submitted; as also his estimate of the grain requirements of Dinagepore. His final Minute No. 50 regarding Dinagepore was not received till after the despatch of the last Narrative. The Lieutenant-Governor is happy to find that Sir Richard Temple's report after inspecting the local arrangements is altogether favorable, and justifies the belief that the arrangements, both to transport the grain and to give relief wherever it may appear, are very good and satisfactory. Sir Richard Temple has done all that was necessary to complete and systematize these arrangements, both for the Dinagepore District and for the Rajshahye Division generally. In company with the Relief Commissioner and the local officers, he marched through the districts of Rungpore and Bogra; he again visited Dinagepore; he has been to Maldah and before concluding his review of affairs in the Rajshahye Division,

* Printed in a separate volume.

conferred with the Commissioner (Mr. Molony) at Rajmehal. His Minutes regarding Rungpore, Bogra, and Maldah, and the Rajshahye Division generally, Nos. 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, and 52, with his second letter on the subject, and the Government orders issued thereupon, are forwarded. Sir Richard recommended some additions to the grain allotments of these districts, but it may be said that in regard to the Rajshahye Division, as a whole, his reports are very favorable and creditable to the Commissioner and Additional Commissioner, to Mr. Lowis, Magistrate of Dinagepore, and to the local officers generally. It is matter for congratulation that Sir Richard was able to express himself as thoroughly satisfied with the conduct of the Rajshahye officers and with the forwardness of their preparations.

Sir Richard Temple, after meeting the Lieutenant-Governor at Patna and visiting Allahabad to arrange further about reserve carriage, conferred with the Commissioner and the Magistrates of Shahabad and Gya, and settled the allotment of grain for those districts. On his way down he again visited Bhaugulpore, and settled the grain allotment for the Sonthal Pergunnahs and Monghyr. (See his Minutes on these subjects, and also those regarding the organization of a reserve transport train.)

It will have been seen from previous Narratives that the Lieutenant-Governor has warmly acknowledged the good service which Sir Richard Temple has done for the Government of Bengal by visiting the distressed districts; by conferring with local officers of all grades; by ascertaining what was required; by informing the local Government; by giving the necessary orders, and by seeing that both his orders and those of Government were obeyed. Sir George Campbell would again repeat his most cordial acknowledgments of Sir Richard Temple's services.

16. Sir Richard Temple has now submitted Minutes clearly summarizing the present transport and relief arrangements in the three distressed divisions—Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye. These will be separately submitted to the Government of India, with a note showing the whole of the allotments of grain, and giving a general review of the transport arrangements and their working. Here it will suffice to say that the total allotment of grain to the distressed districts amount up to date to 381,819 tons. It only remains to consider whether any further allotments must be made to the western districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions, but it is not expected that the demands for these districts will be very large. The distressed parts of Chota Nagpore are those which are most accessible, and Burdwan is very accessible. Seeing how favorably the season promises so far, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that with these large allotments, and a certain reserve in case of surprise in any quarter, a very ample provision has been made.

Transport arrangements.

The carriage arrangements are now, as a whole, working very well indeed, and there is every prospect that the full quantities allotted will be conveyed to, and stored in, the distressed districts in very good time. It was at one time feared that the local carriage would scarcely keep pace with the supply sent up by the railway. Now the difficulty is the other way—*i. e.*, we can hardly send by railway enough to supply the local carriage. It is hoped, however, that arrangements now made will suffice to get up the whole supply in time. The only serious difficulty is in regard to the supply of North-Eastern Tirhoot, to which so much as 32 lakhs of maunds, or 117,000 tons, have been allotted, and where the carriage has, so far, fallen short of our expectations. But the Durbhanga Railway is progressing admirably, and most opportunely comes to aid us in carrying grain to Durbhanga, to which a temporary line of rail will be open this month. The Government is now sanguine that if the traffic lines are not interrupted before 15th June, the supply for Tirhoot will be completed by that time. If the rains come in prematurely, the distress will, it may be hoped, be so much curtailed, and the water routes will be opened. The latest figures and facts regarding grain transport seem to make it certain that if no very unforeseen mischance occur, the allotments to all the other districts will be stored some time before the dates mentioned for the completion of the Tirhoot allotment, many of them long before. Only a portion of the additional allotment lately made to the Rajshahye Division may be stored in the waterside depôts for distribution when the rains clear the channels.

The Lieutenant-Governor has issued instructions to Commissioners regarding the distribution of grain during the rains, and orders, deputing a special officer, Mr. Wickes, C. E., to inquire into the best means of utilizing the waterways of the distressed districts from the 1st July.

The transport arrangements of Purneah and North Bhaugulpore have been organized by Mr. Hankey with remarkable ability and success, and are working exceedingly well. Two reports are forwarded showing what Mr. Hankey has done.

Despatches of Government grain.

17. The despatches of Government grain from Calcutta to the famine districts amounted during the fortnight under review to 10,80,936 maunds (38,705 tons). The total despatches of Government grain to, and receipts in, the distressed districts up to the 31st March amount to 209,913 tons; out of which, 131,765 tons had reached their final destination up to the date of the latest returns. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway fell, owing to the insufficiency of railway wagons, as low as 1,437 tons and 1,185 tons during the beginning of the fortnight. In consequence of these short despatches, inconvenience was caused at the Purneah and North Bhaugulpore riverside depôts, where a powerful stream of carts had been arranged, and where the reserves of grain were very soon exhausted. Since the 26th March, however, the average rate of despatches has been kept as high as 2,479 tons per day—a quantity very little below the maximum which the Government of India desires should be sent daily. The Railway Company have allotted a sufficient number of wagons to work the Government grain traffic only; these wagons, if unloaded promptly at the Behar Stations, will come back empty, and thus maintain a constant steady traffic of Government grain. The East Indian Railway have also promised to give the Government grain at Howrah priority of despatch over ordinary goods; the ground for such a concession is that a regular stream of Government grain to Behar is necessary to enable the Government to transport its full allotment into the interior before the rainy season, and to be in a position to save the lives of the people who may be expected to be on its hands. The Lieutenant-Governor only trusts that these arrangements will not interfere with the despatch of private grain, remembering, as he does, that after all that Government has done for the worst districts, there still remain many districts where there has been much failure of crops, which must greatly rely on private importation.

The Eastern Bengal Railway has been able to send away daily to Kooshtea and Goalundo all the grain which the Government required to send; the average despatches by that line during the fortnight have been somewhat over 1,000 tons per day.

Relief works.

18. The fortnightly returns of persons employed on relief works under officers of the Public Works Department will be found enclosed. But this return does not always show the numbers employed on works under the Court of Wards, or on works under local agency of many kinds. As has been already said, the number of people employed, or perhaps more strictly, relieved, on the works in North Tirhoot has increased enormously. Compared with the figures given in last Narrative (paragraph 28), the figures stand thus, and even the figures given had been somewhat exceeded by the last accounts:—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division	234,249	539,353
Soane Canal Works	29,589	31,289
Gunduck Embankments	25,615	28,834
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Kurruckpore Works)...	22,800	51,430
Rajshahye Division	54,832	82,586
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, Chota Nagpore, and Cooch Behar	19,219	22,000
Northern Bengal Railway	7,000	12,000
TOTAL ...	393,304	767,492

It will be seen that the numbers employed have increased considerably in other parts of the country besides Tirhoot. In regard to the management of

these enormous numbers of work-people, the utilization of their labor, and their punctual payment, the Lieutenant-Governor would invite attention to paragraphs 11-24 of his note on Tirhoot affairs. Effort has been made, and will still be made, to disperse them to their homes as soon as possible, and to relieve them there. Meanwhile every nerve is strained to supply professional supervision of all grades; to send up competent clerks of works; to educe local agency for supervision, and to manage the pay disbursement business to the best interests both of the Government and of the work-people. Since the last Narrative was submitted four additional engineer officers, and as many as forty additional subordinates, have been ordered to, or have arrived in, the famine districts. Major Trevor, R. E., has been deputed, with instructions, as Additional Chief Engineer, to inspect, direct, and advise upon relief works, in concert with local engineers and civil officers.

North Behar Railway works.

19. In the Madhobunnee Division, where nearly a quarter of a million were on the works by last accounts, the present relief works can hardly last more than four weeks, for the people seem to dislike tank-work and to rush upon the road-works. In this direction the railway engineers were already prospecting for the best alignment for a North Behar Railway to run from Durbhanga eastwards; and the Government of India, in view of the enormous quantity of available labor, has been pleased to sanction the engineers beginning the railway on the best line which they can, in communication with the local civil officers, finally agree upon. If the survey, or reconnoissance, is far enough advanced to make such beginning practicable, very excellent and useful work will have been provided for the famine-stricken laborers of Madhobunnee. Happily Mr. Stevens, the Superintending Engineer of the Durbhanga Raj property, knows the country well, and has surveyed most of it for the roads now under construction. The selection of a line for a railway in a hurry will therefore be less hazardous than it might otherwise be in a country where the maps are nearly thirty years old.

Irrigation Department relief works.

20. The average daily number of laborers on the Soane Canal works has risen during the fortnight to 31,282 as compared with 29,589 as shown in last Narrative. The executive engineers report that at the present season they cannot procure as many local laborers as they require, inasmuch as people can earn from 3½ to 4 annas a day in harvesting. People on the works consume for the most the cheaper grains, which they buy locally. Coarse rice can be had from local dealers on the works at 12 seers per rupee. At one place only was there a demand for Government grain, and there one bag of Burmah rice was issued and was taken readily. The number of work-people on the Gunduck Embankments has risen to 28,834 as against 25,615 shown in the last Narrative. Most of the people are doing petty task-work; they draw their supplies of maize mainly from the local markets. The people are strong and able to work; only a few come to the works in a reduced state, and receive gratuitous relief for a time from the engineers.

Northern Bengal Railway.

21. The numbers of work-people on the Northern Bengal Railway are increasing; about the 15th March there were 9,000 laborers on the railway bank, besides about 3,000 on the feeder roads. The earth-work completed was equal to a bank 24 miles long and 4 feet high. On the southern section, where the bank is heaviest, but few laborers had yet applied for work, but they were beginning to come in larger numbers. The Engineer-in-Chief is very anxious to complete the railway bank from Julpigoree down to the Ganges this season, and he is arranging to import laborers from other distressed districts. The Magistrate of Bogra also has been instructed to send over for work upon the railway any distressed people of his district who may be willing to take work away from their homes.

Durbhanga Railway.

22. The railway from Chumpta Ghât, on the Ganges, to Durbhanga is not exactly a relief work, but it was undertaken, and is being rapidly pressed through, in order to carry grain into the most distressed tracts of North Tirhoot. The length of the line at present sanctioned from the Ganges to Durbhanga is 44 miles; on 28½ miles of this length the rails had been laid, and the principal bridge was expected to be completed at once. The Engineer-in-Chief expected to lay two miles of rails a day to complete the remaining bridges, and to be able to run

an engine into Durbhanga by the middle of April. From the first of the present month the railway was to carry a certain amount of grain daily as far as Nagurbustee, two-thirds of the distance from the Ganges to Durbhanga; and soon after the 15th the railway will, it is expected, carry 800 tons of grain daily into Durbhanga. The Government of India has provided that rolling stock shall be ready on the new line in sufficient quantity to carry 800 tons a day, and arrangements are in train for unloading the wagons at stations and starting it off to the depôts on carts.

Charitable relief.

23. It has been explained in previous Narratives that, in order to carry out the relief system contemplated by the "Instructions" issued by the Government of India, the larger sub-divisions have been sub-divided, and each relief sub-division is parcelled out into circles. Over each circle is placed a competent officer who has to direct and control charitable relief at each village of his circle. The circle officer is aided by one, two, or more assistants. Attached to each circle is a famine hospital and a native doctor; and it is the duty of the circle officer and his assistant to visit every village in the circle at least once a week, to prepare lists of the people who require relief in every village, and to see that relief is given in one form or another to every person who requires it. The worst districts, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Dinagepore, Maldah, and Rungpore, and parts of Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and Monghyr, have been thus parcelled out into circles; and every circle in each of these districts is manned, and the relief system has been thoroughly and systematically begun. Below the circle officers are employed the indigenous village agency of village headmen, village accountants, and village police, as explained in the Lieutenant-Governor's note. As has been stated in a previous paragraph (13), the Additional Commissioner of North Behar, writing from the worst part of Durbhanga, says that in a circuit of twenty miles he did not find a person unrelieved or uncared for. Mr. Howe's account of the relief arrangements in North Chumparun shows that throughout Ramnuggur the administration of charitable relief, in the relief circles, is now in good working order, and the people are kept from starving.

Numbers in receipt of charitable relief.

24. The numbers of people in receipt of daily charitable relief, in one form or another, are, according to the latest information—

Name of district.	Name of sub-division	Numbers receiving relief.
Chumparun	Bettiah ...	4,350
	Ramnuggur ...	1,400
	Head-quarters ...	333
Tirhoot ...	Durbungah	12,082
	Seetamarhee ...	5,221
	Madhoobunnee ...	570
	Head-quarters . .	265
Sarun ...	... . .	36
Gya	. ...	192
Shahabad ...	... .	13
Bhaugulpore ...	Soopole	1,300
	Muddeypoora	
Monghyr ..	... ...	1,603
Purneah ...	... .	2,554 (besides 1,500 privately relieved.)
Maldah ..	... .	240
Bogra ...	... ...	660
Rungpore ...	... .	4,000
Dinagepore ...	... .	458
	TOTAL ...	35,345

Sales of Government grain.

25. In North Chumparun, Dinagepore, and parts of Purneah only has Government grain been sold to the public to any considerable extent. To the people on the works the grain has been sold in Tirhoot and also in parts of Bhaugulpore. From Ramnuggur, in North Chumparun, only have full accounts of these sales and

their results been received. Mr. Howe, the sub-divisional officer, writes thus: "Since the 12th March sales of Government grain to the public have commenced, and by the 21st, the date up to which this report extends, 365 maunds 25 seers 12 chittacks had been disposed of, and Rs. 1,269-10 realized. The precautions taken to prevent its getting into the hands of monopolists were these: 1*st*, the rice was sold in small quantities, the smallest that could be considered wholesale, generally three bags, and to as many petty traders as possible. A few of the more substantial dealers, four in number, received seven bags (about 14 maunds each). A proclamation was issued several times (especially on market days) informing the public that Government rice would be retailed by certain dealers at 11½ seers per rupee, and every opportunity of making this widely known was taken. I also took an agreement from each dealer in writing to the effect that he should only sell retail in the town of, and at the bazaars round, Ramnuggur at 11½ seers per rupee, and in not larger quantities than 5 seers to any one person. A few also agreed to retail on our roads around Ramnuggur to our coolies. Finally, I took the greatest care, through my establishment, and in person, to watch the working of the measure and prevent abuses. I feel convinced that the grain thus sold has circulated freely among the people in the manner intended by Government. Every shop where Government rice is sold is surrounded by eager purchasers, and no measure we have taken (not even the advances to ryots, which was very popular) has tended so completely to restore the confidence of the people. Villagers from 8 to 10 miles come in on bazaar days, and the rice is rapidly sold." Sales conducted after this fashion through the local dealers will, it is hoped, not restrain trade, or prevent such private importations as may be coming in. In the Lieutenant-Governor's note it is sufficiently explained that private trade was active, and private supplies were tolerably abundant, even in the worst parts of Tirhoot.

Advances to ryots.

26. In the Chumparun and Purneah Districts advances of money and grain to substantial ryots have been begun. In Sarun, Tirhoot, Rungpore, Maldah, Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr very considerable sums have been advanced to zemindars in order that they may help their ryots. The advances of grain made direct to ryots have been made by the relief circle officers on the security of the ryots' holding or other security. At paragraphs 41-46 of the Lieutenant-Governor's note on Tirhoot affairs, the subject of advances to ryots is discussed, and it is pointed out that there are considerable classes of ryots who will not work on roads, and who yet will require advances of grain to carry them through the coming season. Sir George Campbell has desired all officers to make advances to ryots, as far as possible, on the security of zemindars, middlemen, or head ryots; and looking to the very great importance of this advance question, he has suggested that villages in the worst tracts be classified according to the manner in which it will be necessary to make advances to ryots. Now that the relief circle agency is getting into full working order, the Lieutenant-Governor has good hope that this business of advancing grain to ryots, on the best available security, will be properly dealt with during the next two months.

Medical staff for the famine districts.

27. During his recent tour Sir Richard Temple had recommended that application be made to the Madras and Bombay Governments for twenty additional native doctors to help in the medical relief required in the famine districts. The orders of the Bengal Government on that Minute show that up to the present date 102 native doctors have been indented for on behalf of the famine districts; and the Surgeon-General has made available 105 native doctors for the duty from the Bengal Presidency. Out of this number, from 50 to 70 native doctors had reached the famine districts before the end of March, and the rest were on their way. Sufficient stocks of medicines and other necessaries packed in small boxes have been sent to each famine district, so that the relief circle hospitals may be found with all fitting drugs and appliances. In case further indents should be made for medical aid, the offer of the Government of India to send for additional native doctors from Madras and Bombay has been accepted. For the supervision of the relief hospitals an additional European medical officer has been sent to each of the sub-divisions in North Tirhoot, and another

for North Chumparun. Preparations are thus being made to meet and relieve disease among the famine-stricken people. Up to the present date there has, most providentially, been no epidemic among the people on the relief works or at the chief grain routes, or at the great depôts. There was a little cholera at one time on the grain route to Ghoraghât in Dinagepore through Bogra; but it lasted only for a few days, and has disappeared. Diarrhœa is said to be prevalent among the people on one length of the Chumparun embankment. If immunity from epidemic continues among the enormous crowds on the relief works till they are dispersed, it will be a very great blessing.

No. 15.

Fifteenth Special Narrative of the Drought, from the 3rd to the 16th April 1874.

On the 8th April, Sir George Campbell was permitted to resign the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, and Sir Richard Temple was appointed to succeed him. The Lieutenant-Governor left the Presidency for the distressed districts on the night of Tuesday, the 14th April.

The weather.

Rainfall of the fortnight in inches at some of the principal district stations:

Burdwan	0·0
Beerbhoom	0·0
Calcutta	0·0
Maldah	1·57
Moorshedabad	0·0
Dinagepore	1·93
Rungpore	0·79
Dacca	1·19
Mymensing	6·26
Sylhet	8·15
Tipperah	1·55
Patna	0·0
Tirhoot	0·0
Chumparun	0·0
Bhaugulpore	rain, but quantity not shown.
Lohardugga	0·0

2. The weather during the fortnight under report has continued favorable on the whole. Rain has fallen in most of the districts of the Rajshahye, Dacca, and Chittagong Divisions, and also in parts of North Bhaugulpore and Purneah. This has been very opportune for the early rice sowings, and all the accounts show that a larger area than usual is prepared for this crop. More rain is required, and the weather seems sufficiently unsettled to make it possible to hope for this. In the Patna Division the drought still continues, and the millets and pulse, now approaching maturity, are withering for want of moisture, while it will be impossible to prepare the ground for rice sowing without some heavy showers.

Price of grain.

3. In the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, and Bankoora, of the Burdwan Division, prices have remained stationary, or with a tendency to fall. In Beerbhoom they have slightly risen. In Burdwan, although the price current shows the price of common rice at over 14 seers per rupee, the Collector reports that in the interior of Bood-bood it is only procurable at 10 seers per rupee, or even less. There is no marked change in the Presidency Division. In the Rajshahye Division prices have risen slightly in Dinagepore, but were in the district narratives reported easier in Moorshedabad, Rajshahye, and Maldah, owing to private importations. At Rungpore Sudder Station they suddenly rose from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6-8 a maund, owing, it is said, to the demand for carriage on account of Government grain having paralyzed private trade. Only about 600 carts in all are here at present taken up for Government; and Mr. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner, reports that he has no doubt Rungpore could easily supply many more, were proper rates paid. He is himself looking into this. From the district narrative it does not appear that prices in the interior have been at all affected. They are, however, extremely high throughout the south and west of this district. In the more eastern districts of Bengal the rates are either stationary or lower, except in Mymensing, which shows a rise. In Behar, south of the Ganges, the reaping of the rubbee crop has cheapened food-grains somewhat; north of the Ganges the harvest has not had the same effect, and in Soopool an upward tendency is observed, notwithstanding the harvesting of a very fair spring crop.

The present quotations of rice for some of the principal districts compare as follows:—

NUMBER OF SEERS OF COMMON RICE SOLD FOR A RUPEE, 1874.

	On 31st Jan.	28th Feb.	28th Mar.	11th April.	April 1873.
Burdwan ...	14	13½	13¼	14¼	24
Beerbhoom ...	12⅜	12½	13½	12 13/16	24
Hooghly ...	11 to 12	11½ to 12½	12 to 13	12 to 13	18
Calcutta ...	12½	12¼	13	13¼	...
Dinagepore ...	13¼	14	10¾	10¼	27
Maldah ...	11¾	12	9½	10½ to 11	24½
Rungpore ...	11¼	11¼	11½	7¼	27⅚
Dacca ..	16	14	13	17	32
Backergunge ..	16½	15	16	16	28
Chittagong ...	18	16½	16½	17	24
Noakhally ...	17½	13	15	16	26
Patna ...	12	13½	12	13½	21
Shahabad ...	13	12½	12¾	12	18½
Tirhoot ...	10	10	8½	8½	21
Sarun ...	12¼	12½	12	12	20
Chumparun ...	11¾	11	10¼	9	27
Bhaugulpore ...	12⅝	11⅜	11¼	11⅜	16½
Lohardugga ...	15½	16	14	14	17
Maunbhoom ...	15	14½	14½	14½	24

State of the crops.

4. The in-gathering of the rubbee, or spring harvest, has, in most of the Behar Districts, been now brought to an end. In all those south of the Ganges the outturn has been much better than was originally anticipated; and in the Bhaugulpore Division, north of the Ganges, the yield has been, on the whole, very fair. In Sarun, however, the results are less satisfactory. The severe hail-storm of last month did much damage to the crop in parts, while the outturn generally appears to have been unequal, and in some tracts considerably below expectation. The firmness maintained by prices in spite of the reaping of this, ordinarily a most important crop in Sarun, is looked upon by the local officers as an unfavorable sign. In Chumparun the *cheena*, or lesser millet, was in a precarious condition from want of rain, except in tracts where irrigation had kept it alive. The outturn of the spring crop had not been here very satisfactory, and in the worst part of the district—Ramnuggur—there had been none to speak of. In Tirhoot the *cheena* (millet) and *moong* (pulse) are suffering from the continued drought, and it is impossible to prepare the land for rice. In all those districts where the *mohwa* tree grows, such as Bhaugulpore, Monghyr, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and the Chota Nagpore Division, the crop this year has been singularly full and abundant, forming a most material addition to the food-supply of the poorer classes. In the Rajshahye Division the rain which was much wanted to enable the ryots to complete the sowing of the early autumn crop has fallen pretty generally; and though more is still required, the sowings are now on the whole well advanced. The silk crop, which is always precarious, has in the Rajshahye District unfortunately proved a failure.

Seed-grain.

5. The question of seed-grain has become of more immediate interest in Eastern Bengal, where sowings are earlier than in Behar. The Collector of Dinagepore writes: "As the *bhadoi* sowings have not yet been completed, it is not easy to determine with certainty the question of sufficiency of seed-grain, to which the attention of all circle officers has now for some time been directed. The impression, however, is that seed-grain, both for *bhadoi* and *hemantee* (autumn and winter rice) will be forthcoming, though at high rates. The inquiries made by the circle officers show that the people are themselves fully alive to the difficulty, and that dealers are purchasing and storing the produce of last harvest. I am more and more convinced that there is a sufficiency of seed-grain in the country—a stock which the sale of Government rice will tend to keep up." The price will, however, be high. Already in one district the price of seed-grain is higher than that of cleaned rice. In Rungpore it is noted that though the ryots sometimes complained of want of seed, the lands where ready have all been sown, and a much larger area than usual has been cultivated with early rice. In the other districts of the Rajshahye Division there will almost certainly be no lack of seed-grain. The view that seed would probably not be

wanting was that taken by the late Lieutenant-Governor at paragraph 27 of his Tirhoot Note. Steps are being taken to assist, through the zemindars, those ryots who may be unable to buy seed at the high prices now ruling. In Tirhoot the subject has not been lost sight of, as the following extract from the district narrative will show:—

"Mr. MacDonnell and the sub-divisional officer of Hathee are now directing their attention to the relief of cultivators, and small farmers, whom it is difficult to bring to our relief works. To these they are making advances in money for seed-grain, and in grain for their own support. The principle they have adopted is that of making advances to the applicants by whole villages, the applicants entering into an association or system of frank pledge for repayment, their estimate being based on returns submitted by putwarees showing the quantity of land cultivated by each applicant, and the quantity of seed-grain required being calculated at the rate of 20 seers per beegha. In some instances they have persuaded zemindars to take the seed advances into their own hands; and one zemindar, Baboo Bunsee Dareer of Ragopore, proprietor of nearly half the Lehra circle, is specially mentioned for the public spirit and humanity which he has displayed in this respect, and in the administration of relief operations on his estates under their directions."

No special reference is made to the subject in the Sarun and Chumparun narratives, but it is incidentally mentioned that, in one sub-division of the latter district, fully two-thirds of the rice lands had been already prepared for the next sowings. From Purneah it is reported that the trade in seed-grain is brisk.

Supply of grain.

6. The supplies of grain in the local markets are in most districts of Behar still sufficient to meet the demand, and have been supplemented to some extent by the new rubbee grain which is already coming into the market. In the interior of Durbhanga, however, supplies are said to be scarce, save in one or two large bazaars. In Madhoobunee, where the same scarcity had shown itself, the sale of Government rice has brought into the market stocks of other grains held by petty traders. At a few places in Seetamarhee, and in one or two bazaars in Sarun, and at Bukhtiarpore in Monghyr, there was some failure of supplies. But generally throughout Behar the inferior grains are still procurable, though rice is everywhere very dear, and frequently not to be got. In the Rajshahye Districts rice is becoming more and more difficult to buy, though other grains are generally available in sufficient quantity. The Dinagepore district officer thinks, however, that everything now points to exhaustion in the stocks of food-grains in that district, and traces a steady falling-off in supplies, while the people are said to be anxious for the opening of the Government golahs. In Rungpore also, along the south-west and south of the district, deficiency is apparent until the tract on the east is reached, which is supplied by importation from the Brahmapootra. In all other parts of the district food is procurable at high prices. This is also the case generally in the Chota Nagpore and Burdwan Divisions.

Private importations.

7. The railway is still carrying into Behar considerable supplies of grain on account of private traders. The figures for the fortnight ending the 4th April were—

	Tons.
From the North-West and Punjab ...	15,974
„ Calcutta	5,874
TOTAL ...	21,848

The figures for the preceding fortnight were 17,928 tons from the North-West and 7,737 tons from Calcutta.

The block at Patna City Station reported in last Narrative has been removed through the active aid of the Magistrate, and orders have been given for constructing at once a new siding and station yard, and otherwise improving the traffic arrangements in order to prevent a recurrence of the difficulty. A fall of prices in the Patna bazaar led to a slackening in the rate of private import to Behar from the Punjab. The Government has not yet received a final report on the subject, but it is believed that the falling-off was only temporary The amount of private grain sent up from Calcutta also shows a falling-off, possibly in consequence of the orders that Government grain should have priority of despatch. It is to be hoped, however, that carriage will be found

for all the private as well as for the Government grain; and the Railway Company have been told that it is not intended to displace private grain despatches, but only that grain should take priority over ordinary traffic.

In the Rajshahye Division there is a tolerably brisk private import into Rajshahye and Maldah on the Ganges, and to the parts of Rungpore lying near the Brahmapootra.

Export of grain by sea.

8. The usual note on the movement of food-grains is forwarded. The Collector of Customs has furnished a consolidated statement showing the export of food-grains from Bengal ports during the month of March. The total export beyond Bengal was 16,933 tons, making a total of 190,094 tons since the 1st October last.

Condition of the people

9. The condition of the people is very fully explained in the district narratives, the increasing numbers flocking to our relief works indicate increasing severity in the pressure caused by high prices and a deficient market; and this fact is perhaps specially significant from its being very general, and occurring at a time when the cutting of the rubbee harvest afforded in many parts remunerative employment to large numbers of the laboring class. Every week, however, sees the relief organization more complete and more competent to deal with distress; and on the whole it may be said that (thanks solely to the Government provision of work and food) the condition of the people in the distressed districts is not worse. The famine has been got well in hand, and will, it may be hoped, be effectually met and averted. The Commissioner of Patna writes: "Distress in the north of Chumparun and Tirhoot has continued to increase steadily, and the number of people resorting to the relief works is daily becoming larger. The organization for dealing with these distressed masses is, however, daily improving; and what were three weeks ago hungry mobs, clamorous for relief, are now by degrees being transformed into organized gangs of work-people, while those unable to work have been weeded out and made recipients of gratuitous relief, light labor gangs being formed for those who are unable to join the able-bodied working portion. The relief circles have now all been provided with officers, and arrangements are being made for starting village works in each circle, so as to prevent overcrowding on the roads and the larger works; and it is to be hoped that by this means much useful work will be done, while the dangers arising from the massing of large and unmanageable bodies of people on a few great works will be avoided."

The Minutes by Sir Richard Temple, summarise the principal statistics of distress, and the measures taken by Government to meet this emergency.

North Tirhoot.

10. A very full account was given in last Narrative of the measures adopted in North Tirhoot. The present state of things in those tracts may be gathered from the following extracts:—

"In *Seetamurhee* Sub-division the condition of the people has improved generally, but isolated cases of distressed women and children are still to be found. For all such cases the sub-divisional officer is specially providing."

In *Durbhanga* the sub-divisional officer has observed a marked improvement among the people, especially in the direction of Bahera. He writes:—

"I had myself grouped round Bahera, where I have no doubt the distress was as pronounced as in any other village in the sub-division. These were the villages in which I, in a former report, declared that famine had commenced. As then, so now, I had all the poor assembled; and were it not that I was assured by the jeyt ryot and putwarree and group inspector that no famine-deaths had occurred, and that in the people now before me I saw the starving creatures of a month ago, I scarcely could have credited the change. I visited the village when the putwarree was distributing the daily allowance. There were no complaints whatever, and the improved condition of the recipients proved that the village headmen had not deprived them of Government charity. Indeed, this system of village relief, everywhere I went, I found working well."

Bahera was, it will be remembered, the tract where actual famine had shown itself, and anxiety regarding which was one of the chief causes of Sir George Campbell's visiting Tirhoot last month.

The *Madhoobunnee* sub-divisional officer writes :—

"The time has now come when I must say that distress is general throughout the sub-division. A few favored tracts, such as the neighbourhood of Ladma and Hurlaki thanas, are still comparatively fairly well off; but the fact that we have little less than half the population on our hands shows that distress is severe in general. But for the Government roads, we could not have hoped to cope with it."

From Madhoobunnee several deaths are reported, five at least of which were probably due to privation or disease induced thereby. It is impossible to prevent such cases among the old and helpless, or among children, the classes which in fact furnish most of these cases. Every effort is, however, being made to discover and relieve those in want by careful village visitation and inspection, while food and work are everywhere available for all who will come for them. No famine deaths are reported from any other sub-divisions of Tirhoot. The water supply is unfortunately failing from want of rain, and should the needed showers not speedily fall, a great aggravation of distress must undoubtedly be looked for.

South Tirhoot.

11. In the *Sudder*, *Hajeepore*, and *Tajpore* Divisions, there is an increasing demand for work, but the condition of the people is, on the whole, not much changed for the worse. The accounts given a few weeks back of the state of some parts of the sudder sub-division have been found to be exaggerated. This tract, however, needs careful watching, and a circle organization has been formed to that end. The planters have come forward readily here, as they had already done elsewhere, to aid in looking after the village relief. The tobacco crop in Tajpore is expected to assist the ryots much, but there is some difficulty about getting the produce down to the Ganges, as so many carts are taken up for carriage of grain. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused inquiry to be made as to whether return carts and railway empties could not be made available for this purpose, and has sanctioned advances being given upon the security of the crop in case of need.

The rest of Behar.

12. In *Sarun* the ample provision of work made by Government has prevented any deterioration in the condition of the people. From *Chumparun* the same fact is reported. The people have been saved by the measures adopted for their relief, which are now described as being in good working order. Even in *Ramnuggur*, where the inhabitants depend almost entirely on Government help, direct or indirect, their state is reported to be sufficiently satisfactory. In *North Bhaugulpore* the worst cases on the works are wanderers from Tirhoot. Village visitation is in progress, and will, it is hoped, bring to light any lurking distress, if such exists. In *Monghyr* there has been no change for the worse, rather the contrary, as the spring harvest has been good, and about six lakhs of rupees, on account of opium payments, have been distributed among the cultivators. In *Bukhtiarpore* only did the relief superintendent find very marked distress, where in two villages grain had to be doled out to 350 persons of the lowest classes who were found quite "famine-stricken." In *Purneah* no change for the worse is reported, but incendiary fires are said to be becoming frequent. In the *Sonthal Pergunnahs* the "people look well everywhere," though they are said to be nearly at the end of their stores in parts; but, as the Deputy Commissioner remarks, "Sonthals would be merry and eat full meals up to their last handful of maize." Fortunately the Sonthals take very readily to out-door labor, and of this enough is provided.

Rajshahye Division.

13. In *Moorshedabad* the old, infirm, and beggars are coming more on charitable relief, and the pressure is tightening in some parts, as indicated by the increasing resort of laborers to the works. The failure of the silk crop in *Rajshahye* will add to the distress there, but this is not as yet at all severe. Both here and in Moorshedabad arrangements have been made for careful inspection by circle officers (without, however, a full subordinate agency as in Tirhoot), and the doubtful parts will be closely watched. In *Dinagepore* the sale of Government grain and the ample supply of work has checked any development of distress. From the south of *Rungpore* the accounts are less favorable. Near Sadullapore and

Govindgunge the village inspection has disclosed "greater distress than was anticipated." The district report says :—

In the tract lying west of the Kurotya the state of the villages is wretched beyond description; the people have sold everything they possessed, and are now solely dependent on Government. Many have sold their plough cattle, the last thing with which a Bengalee ryot parts. I found one instance where a man had sold the roof over his head. Many ryots have deserted the place altogether and gone to Bogra and elsewhere. The relief officer reports that the people seem to be most grateful for the relief works. The villages in this quarter are now quite deserted in the day-time. Every one is to be found on the road; the women are now coming readily, bringing their children with them. All are most anxious to get Government rice. The want of water is felt nearly as keenly as the want of food. In many villages people have to go 2 or 3 miles to bring a *ghurrah* of water. I have begun to excavate three old tanks in the worst parts, and am digging wells at every mile along the roads. A few cases of cholera, with one death, have occurred among the coolies. In many tracts on the south and the south-west of the district the poorer classes of ryots have been obliged to sell or pledge the few things they have. Many complain of the difficulty of having only one full meal of rice a day, and of having to eke out the second meal with various coarse substitutes for rice. There is much widely-diffused distress, which is being carefully looked after, and relief to meet the circumstances that arise in each locality is promptly organized on the spot.

In *Maldah* it is feared that relief operations must be extended, and village-to-village inspection made, even in those tracts which have not hitherto been considered distressed. The numbers requiring relief in the north-west of the district are increasing rapidly; but no cases of starvation have yet been reported. The accounts received of late from *Pubna*, and especially from the *Serajgunge* Division of that district, have been somewhat unfavorable. The parts bordering upon the distressed tracts of Rungpore, Dinagepore, and Rajshahye may very possibly require more active assistance before the season is over. Meantime the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the opening of relief works, and authorized the Magistrate, in case of emergent need, to indent upon the nearest golahs of the neighbouring districts.

Burdwan Division.

14. There has been some change for the worse in the Bood-bood and to some extent in the Cutwa Sub-divisions of the Burdwan District. The Collector reports that on personal inspection he finds the condition of the people in many villages wretched in the extreme. The endemic fever has already reduced the standard of health in those parts, and the number of applicants for relief has now become very considerable. The Lieutenant-Governor has himself gone to look into matters, and will give such further orders, supplementary to the measures of relief already taken, as may appear necessary. There is nothing fresh to report regarding any of the other districts of this division. The numbers on works and receiving charitable relief have increased, as was to be expected, with the advance of the season, but ample provision has been made to meet all needs. The Jungle Mehals of Midnapore, a remote tract, regarding which some anxiety was felt at first, are now believed to be safe from anything like severe distress.

Chota Nagpore Division.

15. A full report by Colonel Dalton upon the condition of the Chota Nagpore Division to the end of March is enclosed. It will be seen that Palamow still continues to be the most distressed tract in this division, and that many people come to the works in an emaciated state. The relief organization has been considerably strengthened here, and will now be able, it is hoped, to meet all demands on it. To both Maunbhoom and Hazareebaugh Government grain has been sent. In both districts, however, as well as in Palamow, the mohwa crop has given much relief to the poor. Work is provided for all who require it, and gratuitous relief is being given to those who cannot work. From Singbhoom the Deputy Commissioner reports :—

The relief works that have been opened out in this district are proving of the utmost benefit, and there can be no doubt that but for them the short crops of the past season would have pressed hardly on the poorest. The assistance rendered was all required, and it is hoped and expected that through it the season will be tided over till the next crops. The mohwa and other wild fruit crops, more especially in the Kolhan, are turning out mercifully abundant, and they will supply food to the poorest for the next two months. The mohwa trees in the Kolhan are laden with blossoms in the most extraordinary manner, and the blossoms themselves are of huge size and bursting with richness. Every tree is guarded with the most jealous care from the cattle. The Kols also prepare and eat the seed of the sâl tree; and the sâl trees this

year are, beyond all experience, in most abundant bloom. It is no exaggeration to say that in the Kolhan forests 99 out of every 100 trees have blossomed, and blossomed in the most amazing way. In most cases literally not a leaf can be seen from the profusion and wealth of blossom. Other jungle fruits, the *cha* especially, are also in great abundance this year.

Mymensing.

15*a*. Fears have been felt from time to time lest the trade demand upon the eastern districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions for rice to supply the more distressed tracts to the west should affect unfavorably the position of the exporting tracts themselves. During the last week accounts have been received from Mymensing to the effect that in a small part of the Jamalpore Sub-division there is a deficiency in the local food-supply. A proposal to import some Government grain has been submitted by the Commissioner. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed careful inquiry to be made as to the necessity of this. It seems probable that, surrounded as it is by districts which had surplus crops, this little corner may, by a little arrangement and stimulus given to local trade, be able to get supplies. Of course if Government grain is really required it will be given, and fortunately can be easily delivered by the Brahmapootra steamers at a ghât nearly opposite Kaleegunj, where the Rungpore supplies are now being landed.

Presidency Division.

16. In the Presidency Division the only tracts regarding which any anxiety has been felt are the north-west corner of Nuddea, near Moorshedabad, and a small part of the Satkhira Sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs. In Nuddea the system of advances for works connected with land improvements and water-supply has led to the employment of the distressed poor in considerable numbers by private persons. About 4,000 souls thus find employment, besides 1,150 who are employed on Government roads; while weaving and spinning is provided for those who cannot labor out of doors. These measures have hitherto proved sufficient. In Satkhira, similarly, work is provided by Government for all who need it. The distress here is not severe as yet, though it is feared some suffering is in store for the people. A relief committee has, however, been formed.

Transport arrangements.

17. Among the papers printed will be found a note summarising and reviewing the state and prospects of the Government transport arrangements up to the end of March. The general result is extremely satisfactory, showing that each district will have probably received its entire allotment of grain by the end of May—several districts long before that date—and we may fairly hope that the whole will thus have been stored before the rains set in. The letter to the Government of India, No. 2257 SR, dated 10th April, with enclosures, shows that the despatches for the Rajshahye Division are now fast approaching completion.

The Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied, as regards the western districts, that the local transport can easily carry away all the grain that the railway can supply. The manner in which the district officers have answered to the calls made upon them by Government for the organization of a strong transport service has been worthy of all praise. The minutes by Sir Richard Temple, Nos. 55 and 58, show what has been done to secure reserve carriage in case of any possible break-down; and the Government can now, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, rest assured that, unless some very unforeseen accidents occur, no serious failure in the scheme of relief can happen owing to any insufficiency in the transport service.

Since the last Narrative was written the Secretary of State has advised the Government that contracts have been made for the construction of the ten small steamers referred to in paragraph 23 of the Eleventh Narrative. They are each to carry 20 tons, and tow a barge carrying 20 tons more. They will be shipped in pieces by canal steamers before the end of April, and may be expected to be ready for work here by the beginning of July. These, with the four similar steamers now making in Calcutta, will be useful for distributing grain from district depôts by the inland rivers, or for carrying up any further allotments should the necessity for this arise.

The Durbungah Railway has been completed, the engine having entered Durbungah on the 15th April. This will help very materially in placing the grain allotted to Durbungah and Mudhobunnee. This aid was much wanted, for the Alliance Company of contractors have not yet succeeded in bringing up

their despatches from Chumpta Ghât to anything like the anticipated figure; and Nilcomul, the North-West contractor, is also very backward in his arrangements. With the help of the railway, however, we can feel certain that all shortcomings will be now made up.

Despatches of Government grain.

18. The despatches of Government grain to the famine districts amounted during the fortnight under report (*i. e.*, up to Tuesday, 14th April) to 14,19,266 maunds (52,565 tons), which is a great improvement upon the despatches of the fortnight before (38,705 tons). The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta to the distressed districts amount now to 65,73,969 maunds, or 243,480 tons; while 150,925 tons had been finally stored to the date of the latest returns. The papers appended show exactly how the case stands as regards the amount and despatch of the grain yet remaining to be sent to each district.

Local purchases at Patna.

19. The Patna dealers, whose undertaking to deliver 42,000 maunds a week of mixed grain for Tirhoot was noticed in paragraph 18 of the Thirteenth Narrative, are working out their contract very satisfactorily. There was a little shortcoming at first, caused partly by the difficulty they had in getting railway wagons, and partly by the want of bags of the size required; but all these difficulties have been overcome, and the grain they give and the bags in which it is packed are reported to be exceedingly good.

Relief works.

20. The fortnightly return of persons employed on relief works under officers of the Public Works Department will be found as usual enclosed. The following table, however, shows more completely the number of laborers on Government and Court of Wards' relief works by the latest returns:—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division	539,353	848,341
Soane Canal Works	31,289	33,933*
Gunduck Embankments	28,834	29,299*
Bhaugulpore Division	51,430	87,198
Rajshahye "	82,586	167,871
Burdwan Nuddea, Chota Nagpore, and Cooch Behar	22,000	47,794
Northern Bengal Railway	12,000	12,475
TOTAL ...	767,492	1,226,911

From the above it would seem that the estimates of distress at the worst season formed some weeks ago by Sir Richard Temple and the local officers will be realized—perhaps more than realized—in the Patna Division. On the other hand, the distress in the Rajshahye Division is as yet somewhat less, and in the Bhaugulpore Division considerably less than the estimate. Now that the spring harvest is over, the numbers may be expected to increase everywhere. The work of breaking up the great gangs upon the North Tirhoot roads and diverting them to village works has been going on. The Additional Commissioner in Tirhoot has been authorized to make saltpetre manufacture a relief work if he can do so at reasonable rates, taking the necessary precautions for the protection of the salt revenue by buying in the salt or otherwise. Mr. Metcalfe was sanguine that he could employ great numbers in this way. In Sarun the *cowrie* system, under which each laborer is paid a certain number of cowries for each basketful of earth carried, is reported to have answered well on the Hutwa Raj works, the outturn of work having proved on measurement to be all round not less than half the amount which able-bodied laborers at contract rates would be expected to show in ordinary seasons. At the same time care is taken that the weakest and youngest on the works can earn a livelihood. On the Sarun District works the plan has not been tried generally, from a fear lest the condition of payment by results should deter those really in need from seeking employment freely. In Chumparun it has been introduced more extensively for able-bodied laborers, separate invalid gangs being arranged for those unfit for task-work. In most districts an attempt is being made to exact a moderate amount of real labor from those who are able to give it. In Bogra

* Incomplete.

there has been a considerable influx of laborers on the roads, and the system in force seems to have been unduly lax. The Relief Commissioner has had his attention drawn to the matter.

Irrigation Department relief works.

21. On the Soane Canal works the average number of laborers was 33,933 during the fortnight as against 31,282 in that preceding; but as the returns of three of the Dehree Sub-divisions have not been received, the figures are incomplete. Laborers are said to be increasing rapidly in the Arrah Division. The Gunduck embankments gave employment to 29,299 persons on the average, but the returns for the Upper Gunduck works were incomplete. The work is mostly task-work, but weakly people presenting themselves are paid by daily wages or on a liberal cowrie system.

Northern Bengal Railway.

22. The number of laborers on the Northern Bengal Railway has not as yet much increased, but it is said that more are gradually coming in. On the railway and the feeder roads there were 12,475 on an average last fortnight. Arrangements are being made for sending large gangs from Bogra. The earth-work done is now equal to a bank 26 miles long and 4 feet high; 1,80,000 bricks have been burnt, 50,000 are now in kilns, and 17,24,000 have been moulded.

Charitable relief.

23. The system under which charitable relief is being distributed was fully explained at paragraph 23 of last Narrative. The number of people now in receipt of charitable relief of all kinds according to the latest returns was—

Gya	430
Shahabad	180
Tirhoot	65,230
Sarun	1,016
Chumparun	17,076
Moorshedabad - ...	879
Dinagepore	4,464
Maldah	931
Rajshahye	185
Bogra	583
Rungpore	6,827
Bhaugulpore	2,804
Purneah	2,178
Monghyr	1,367
Burdwan	9,137
Hooghly	901
Bancoorah	1,200
Beerbhoom	683
Maunbhoom	600
Palamow	300
TOTAL ...	116,471

The following extracts from the Tirhoot report will show how matters are now being managed in Durbungah and Mudhobunnee :—

The sub-divisional officer of Durbungah thus reports: "I have already explained the machinery of charitable relief as it existed when first set in action. I have now to refer to an extension of the system, by which, while retaining our former organization, we are enabled to render the administration of relief more searching and certain. It consists in having prepared through the Jeyt ryot and putwarree of each village a list of all those who are in want of relief in the village, and according to this list the group store-keeper dispenses weekly to each village in the group the quantity of grain required for the week's consumption. The distribution is made in the village by the village headmen and the putwarree. Among the other duties of the inspector will be that of seeing that in this respect the village headmen are up to their work. This sub-division has been divided into 12 circles. The Banhar and Warisnugur Circles being outside the area where distress was most pressing were not taken in hand till now. Of the other circles, the grouping has been completed in all, except Lehera, Gungdak, and Hya Ghât, where some villages still remain ungrouped. But before this week ends the work will be completed in these. In all of these villages the officers are at work, having the village list of distressed people made out; and looking to the fact that as our groups are made up and inspectors appointed, this work can go on simultaneously in every group, it ought to be completed within a fortnight at farthest. My returns of those on charitable relief are incomplete, some circle officers having been unable to send in any returns, and others only returns for some groups. From these fragmentary

returns I learn that the daily average on charitable relief is 14,563. I believe this, however, to be much under the real number."

The Mudhobunnee officer writes: "Charitable relief is now everywhere at work on the ticket system. The system of giving out cotton, too, is taking root, particularly under Messrs. Ozanne, Williams, Nicholay, and Baboo Ishree Pershad. I am establishing through the relief superintendent at most places *quasi* hospitals under the native doctors, for care of those who are, either by starvation or disease, unfitted to go to their own people or to work. I would have the distribution of cooked food, where it is given, also under the superintendence of native doctors if a European is not present, as natives are slow to inquire into cases in which care and extra attention is required."

In the other sub-divisions also careful arrangements are being elaborated to meet any distress that may exist.

In Sarun the numbers on charitable relief are very small. In the whole Hutwa Raj only 60 persons are shown as receiving charity at present, and at most 800 to 1,000 persons are expected to need aid in the Hutwa Sub-division. In Chumparun the organization has, with the aid of planters, been made apparently very complete. In the districts south of the Ganges, and in most of the Rajshahye Division, only beggars and friendless individuals, and in Monghyr some of the very lowest classes, have as yet come in for charitable aid. In Burdwan upwards of 9,000 persons are shown as attending the food depôts and relief-houses. The poorer classes in this district have become accustomed to take cooked food readily at the fever food depôts, and they have no scruples in coming for this form of relief when pinched by high prices, as they are at present.

Sales of Government grain.

24. But little information is given in the district narratives as yet with regard to the sale of Government grain. In Bukhtiarpore, North Monghyr, 2,000 maunds have been sold to the public. From Purneah the district officer reports:—

At Dengra and Kusba Amour there is less private trade than in other parts, but the scarcity is beginning to encourage private enterprise here as eleswhere. A cloth merchant of Kissengunge has opened a large store on the banks of the river, and keeps his supply up by small boats. In this neighbourhood I last fortnight authorized the sale of Government rice. Mr. Gouldsbury sold 10 maunds at Ratahât, and Mr. Wyer 16 maunds at Mathour and 107 maunds 11½ seers at Ootri, at 15 seers per Burmah and 12 seers Bengal. The consequence of this was that on next hât day at Ratahât and Mathour not a single private trader appeared. I consequently reduced the rates to 12 seers and forbade the sale of Government grain at the public hâts. This has restored confidence, and the beparees are now buying as fast as ever from the Purneah bazaar from the merchants who import it from Caragola. I have directed the relief officers at Dengra and Kusba Amour to sell at 12 seers and 10 seers at their relief centres on fixed days, and after inquiry to village communities or group of villages, not more than 100 maunds to be sold at each circle, until further orders.

In Dinagepore sales to the public have begun in limited tracts, and the Magistrate is ready to sell more generally as soon as the necessity arises. In Rungpore grain damaged by the accidental burning down of a Government golah was eagerly bought up by the people at fair rates.

25. The subscriptions to the central relief committee, including those from England, amount to Rs. 13,05,373 up to date, exclusive of the Government subsidy.

Advances to ryots.

26. The subject of advances to ryots is one of fast-growing importance. The extract given above in paragraph 23 from the Durbungah sub-divisional report shows how the plan is being worked in Tirhoot.

In Sarun nearly 3½ lakhs of rupees have been advanced to zemindars to be expended in grain or money advances to their ryots. The following extract from Mr. Howe's report on Ramnuggur is interesting and worthy of special notice in connection with this subject:—

The questions of the most pressing importance are—1*st*, to provide the "assamee" (or cultivating) population with sufficient food-grain; 2*ndly*, to provide them with, or to enable them to obtain, seed-grain. Almost the entire population of the sub-division is agricultural, and the proportion of the cultivating class that comes to our works is small, though the actual numbers are large. The remainder now depend almost entirely on the advances they have received either from their zemindars or from Government, nor have they anything, except advances, to look forward to until the next rice crop is reaped. The best of them are poor and in debt, and it is from this fact that the question of advances becomes so difficult. On the one hand, unless advances are immediately made on a large scale, the "assamee" population will be reduced to starvation; while, on the other hand, there is the risk that, unless great care

is taken in investigating each case, the security will be insufficient. To make advances too readily (except in the comparatively small class of cases coming under Rule F*) tends to demoralize the people, and renders them reckless in getting still further into debt. The difficulty is to combine sufficient promptness with sufficient caution, and to make a searching investigation without thereby losing the right moment for action. Mr. Howe has submitted a scheme which has been sanctioned, and on which he has been acting. The following is an outline of this:—A register (*mouzahwar*) is prepared in each tuppah, in which the amount required approximately for each village is entered. This register is prepared in the first instance by the inspector of the circle, assisted where possible by any influential member of the committee resident in the tuppah. It is then carefully tested by the officer in charge of the circle, who can alter (increase or lessen) the total amount fixed in round numbers. As soon as this has been done, a certain quantity of grain is sent to each village, where it is kept in charge of the headmen of the village, from whom due security for its safe custody is taken. The class of cases requiring most immediate relief, *i. e.*, "assamees" coming under Rule F (which fortunately are comparatively few) will then be taken up and disposed of summarily. These men can be readily found, as there are but few in each village. The object of sending grain to each village, Mr Howe explains, is—1*st* to give confidence, for experience shows that the mere presence of grain in a village (if the object of its being brought is known) has this effect; 2*ndly*, to enable the advances under Rule F to be made at once. The summary inquiry preceding distribution under Rule F will be carried on simultaneously, and having once decided to whom to give under this rule, there is nothing like *immediate action*, which of course can only be taken if the grain is ready; 3*rdly*, because now is the best time for carrying grain throughout the interior, and we should therefore avail ourselves of it. Having provided every village with an amount of grain which approximately will suffice for advances, and having relieved the worst cases under Rule F, a formal register will be prepared and carefully tested by circle inspectors and officers in charge of circles—

1. Name of mouzah.
2. Amount already distributed, either by Rajah of Bettiah, or under Rajah of Ramnuggur's loan
3. Number and names of assamees requiring advances, with amount required by each.
4. Nature of security.
5. Remarks.

When this return has been carefully tested, the zemindar will be called upon either to make the advance or to go security, Government making the tuccavee distribution. If he declines, the best security available will be taken, and the procedure laid down in circular No. 1088 of 25th February will be followed, *i. e.*, the zemindar will be warned that Government reserves the right to recover the advance by legislation or otherwise.

In Monghyr application for advances of this kind are numerous. The system pursued in Purneah is described thus:—

In villages, when the people are badly off, grain is advanced on credit, the village community giving a joint bond for the repayment of the advance. This system works capitally, it keeps the people in food, it allows them to spend their money on seed, which is procurable in nearly every hât and is being imported largely from the north, and it enables us to distribute our grain at no cost at a time when carriage is available. Mr. Wyer at the Sudder has worked this system, and found that it succeeds better than any other; the people like it, and it is far better than making them advances in money, except in places (which are, in my opinion, very few) where there is no seed grain to be had. In most villages the well-to-do ryots have seed grain which they are ready to advance to their poorer neighbours if they see any prospect of being repaid. An advance of Government grain for food on joint security, or its sale in some cases, prevents the seed grain from being eaten, keeps the poorer people in their homes, and enables them to cultivate their fields. The brisk trade in seed grain is a good sign.

In Dinagepore such advances will, it is hoped, be given largely through zemindars. In Rungpore also the applications are many, and upwards of Rs. 90,000 have been advanced for this purpose. The Lieutenant-Governor is again about to call the attention of all officers in distressed districts to the fact that, when the rains put a stop to out-door labor, the plan of advancing grain to ryots will be the best means open to us of tiding them over the months that must pass before they reap any crop from their fields. The security of the village headmen, or the collective security of a body of ryots, would generally be sufficient to warrant such advances.

Reserve officers.

27. The Government of India has arranged to provide a reserve of civil officers to take the place of any now employed who may break down during the course of relief operations. When the transport work is over, the military officers now engaged in superintending that work will also be available for relief.

* *i. e.*, in the case of persons whose caste or family position precludes them from laboring

Stock and cash accounts.

28. Forms of account for cash and stock transactions have been supplied to the districts where Government grain is stored, and on the 15th April stock was to be taken at all golahs and store-houses.

No. 16.

Sixteenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 16th to the 30th April 1874.

The weather.

1. The chief characteristic of the weather up to the close of the fortnight has been great heat, with a general absence of those storms and showers which are ordinarily looked for in April, and which the country at present much requires. Some districts, however, were exceptionally favored. Bancoorah had a little rain in parts. Nuddea, Jessore, Moorshedabad, and Rungpore also received a scanty supply; while in the more eastern districts there were indications that an early fall was by no means improbable. But even those districts which benefited by showers in the early part of the month are now crying out for more; while in Behar the want of water has become serious, the wells and tanks are fast drying up, and much anxiety is felt as to the probable consequences of this long-continued drought. Information has, however, been received by telegraph of a fall of over an inch at Mozufferpore on the 27th, and of over 2 inches in parts of Durbungah; and news of a similar copious fall is telegraphed from Purneah and Moorshedabad, so that, although further advices are not to hand, it may be hoped that there has been something like a general fall where it was most required.

Price of grain.

2. The general tendency of prices, except in the eastern districts, appears to be upward. In nearly all the districts of Burdwan the price current shows a rise in the rates for common rice. In the distressed tracts of Rajshahye also there has been no real improvement, except in Bogra. The rate quoted in Dinagepore is 9 seers, and in Rungpore 8 seers, per rupee. The sale of grain by Government has in the former district tended to maintain the rate at the figure quoted, and in the latter has mitigated the effect of the sudden failure of the local stocks which was noticed in last Narrative. In the eastern districts the rates are slightly better, but still very high. In Behar there is no material change to notice. The rate for rice in the very distressed parts is almost entirely nominal, the staple being in many places quite unprocurable save at the Government golahs. The inferior grains are, if anything, a little dearer.

In the following table the rates for common rice in the principal districts during the last four months are compared with one another, and the rates now current are contrasted with those of April 1873 and April 1866:—

NUMBER OF SEERS OF COMMON RICE SOLD FOR A RUPEE, 1874.

	On 31st Jan.	28th Feb.	28th March.	25th April.	April 1873.	April 1866.
Burdwan ...	14	13½	13¼	13½	24	10¾
Beerbhoom ...	12⅜	12½	13½	12¼	24	12
Hooghly ..	11 to 12	11½ to 12½	12 to 13	12½ to 13	18	12
Calcutta	12½	12¼	13	11½	17½	....
Dinagepore	13¼	14	10¾	8½	27	15
Maldah	11¾	12	9½	10 to 10½	24½	12
Rungpore ...	11¼	11¼	11½	8	27⅝	16¾
Dacca ..	16	14	13	15	32	11
Backergunge ...	16½	15	16	16	28	14
Chittagong ...	18	16½	16½	18	24	17
Noakhally ...	17½	13	15	15	26	13½
Patna ...	12	13½	12	12½	21	13½
Shahabad ...	13	12½	12¼	12	18½	9½
Tirhoot ...	10	10	8½	8½	21	9½
Sarun ..	12¼	12½	12	12¼	20	10½
Chumparun ...	11¾	11	10¼	8½	27	9
Bhaugulpore ...	12⅝	11⅜	11¼	10¼	16½	12
Lohardugga ...	15½	16	11	14	17	13
Maunbhoom ...	15	14½	14½	13	24	13

3. Of the state of the crops, there is little to be said. The only food crops now on the ground are the *boro dhan*, or spring rice, and the supplementary millets and pulses, which are of no very great importance. All have been suffering seriously from want of rain. In Behar some dependence had been placed on the millets as a quick-growing crop, which would come up in time to assist the people in their present need; but the prospect of getting any material aid in this way is now very doubtful, if not hopeless. If, however, there has been anything like a general fall of rain within the last day or two, the prospects of these crops would still be fair in many parts. The preparations for the sowing of the early rice are well advanced in most districts, save those of Behar.

State of the crops.

4. In the districts south of the Ganges there has nowhere been any failure of supplies. On the contrary, the gathering of the spring and *mohúa* crops has without doubt increased the available stock of food very materially. But north of the river the favorable effect of the harvest on the market has been less general. In Tirhoot the southern sub-divisions still get sufficient supplies, but in Durbungah rice has almost entirely disappeared; in Seetamurhee supplies are small, and in Mudhobunnee only 7 or 8 seers of rice are procurable for a rupee. So again in parts of Chumparun, though there was a slight improvement towards the end of the fortnight, the bazaar stocks have been extremely short, some of the grains not being procurable at any price, and some only in quantities of one or two seers at a time. In Sarun, however, things had improved, owing to the great activity of private trade and the completion of the spring harvest. In North Bhaugulpore food is still procurable in the bazaars; but in Soopool prices would seem to indicate that stocks are, as was feared, extremely small. In Purneah too, about the sudder station and Dengrah, there has been a failure in the supply, but the completion of the Government allotment of grain will now leave the transport resources of this district available for private trade, of which a good deal has been carried on hitherto even under considerable disadvantage. In Dinagepore, Rajshahye, and Maldah the indications of short supplies have been getting more marked in sudden fluctuations of prices and limitation of sales. There has been no absolute failure as yet, and Government grain is available for sale if need arises; but the state of the markets is evidently somewhat critical. In Rungpore there has been a general failure of supplies throughout the district, specially along its western border near Dinagepore. It was at first suggested that this was due to the stoppage of local trade by the Government demands for carriage. This surmise has proved to be unfounded. The carriage taken up by Government is in this district comparatively inconsiderable, and the failure of local supply was due to a variety of causes, of which positive lowness of stocks is probably the principal. The Government stores have been opened for sales to the public, and the last reports seem to show that things have become easier. Elsewhere throughout Bengal supplies are available to all who can afford to pay for them.

Supply of grain.

5. The amount of private grain carried by the railway into Behar stands thus:—

Private importations to Behar.

For the fortnight ending 18th April—

	Tons.
From the North-West and Punjab	11,781
" Calcutta and Lower Bengal	18,237
TOTAL	30,018

The figures last fortnight were 15,974 tons from the North-West downwards and 5,874 tons from Calcutta upwards. There is a great increase in the amount of private grain sent up from Bengal. The imports to Patna from the North-West have not yet actually recovered their former activity, partly owing to the slight lowering of prices caused by the spring harvest, but mainly because the new crops in the North-West have not yet come freely into the market. Large supplies are, however, it is said, being now ordered by telegraph. Private import to both Shahabad and Sarun has been very brisk. Between 80,000 and 90,000 maunds were brought into the latter district by three of the principal ghâts alone during the fortnight under

review. In the eastern districts high winds have to some extent i with the river trade.

Export of grain by sea and movement of food grains.

6. The usual note on exports and rail and river traffic is forw The export of food grains to places beyond l had amounted to 198,644 tons from the 1st ber to the latest dates in April.

The condition of the people.

7. As regards the condition of the people in the specially distressed tr there is but little to add to the facts stated in last Narrative. In most of the worst districts numbers coming to the relief works continue to increase, but the growth actual distress has, it may be hoped, been finally stayed. It has, however, become more and more evident that there is no severe famine, simply because relief has prevailed over famine. Even in Patna, perhaps the most fortunate of the Behar districts, the Collector writes that but for the Government works the small cultivators and the laboring classes would have been unable to subsist.

Behar.

The Lieutenant-Governor has himself been on tour in North Tirhoot, and has made a record of the results of that visit up to date, and given a full description of the condition of the people in the North Gangetic tracts. It will be seen that in the northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot the distress is, on the whole, as great as it was feared it might be. In South Tirhoot the Sudder Sub-division is now feeling the pressure more keenly than at first; and though none of the emaciation apparent to the north and east has shown itself here among the laboring poor, the daily growing numbers on the works indicate that the relief organization now provided was not devised at all too soon. In Sarun it is believed that distress is being sufficiently met, and the payments on account of opium have here, as in other Behar districts, been of material assistance to large numbers of the cultivators. The condition of the people in many parts of Chumparun when they come to the works is described by the local officers as plainly indicative of want. The infant children, especially, are in some places "in a miserable condition, shrunk and emaciated;" and though this is attributed to exposure, and to bad and irregular food, rather than to an insufficiency of it, the fact no doubt is evidence that the natural food of infancy has too often been cut off, owing to the hardships endured by the nursing mothers. The following extract from Mr. Howe's report shows that the condition of the people in Ramnuggur is calculated to cause much anxiety:—

The condition of the agricultural classes continues to be very unsatisfactory. In distributing advances we have made searching and systematic inquiries (village by village), and I can therefore speak, not from general impressions and summary investigation only, but with the certainty resulting from having the records of a regular census before me. Although this systematic inquiry is at present far from complete, yet the condition of the remainder of the sub-division closely resembles that of the villages in which the census has been taken, and a description of the village completed will therefore very nearly apply to the entire sub-division.

The villages of Butsora, Decorar, Chankee, Gopala, Sathee, Bubta, and Bhultur (forming part of the Maharajah of Bettiah's estate) are those in which the condition of the ryots causes most anxiety. In the Rajah of Ramnuggur's estate very large tuccavee advances have been made with the most beneficial results; and though a good deal remains to be done, the condition of the ryots is far better. In the villages abovenamed there is a large number of ryots who have nothing, or next to nothing, to live upon, but to whom the alternative of going to our roads is like the prospect of the work-house to the respectable poor at home. These live in the greatest distress, and are rapidly, in spite of their prejudice, being driven to out works. One very noticeable fact during the fortnight has been the steady increase in the number of workmen flocking to our roads and tanks. Colonel Boulderson's daily average in the east, where there are not many works and the attendance has hitherto been small, has increased to about 4,000 a day; and he attributes this entirely "to the fact that the grain-stores of the cultivating classes have become exhausted."

Indeed, this is the only way to account for the increase. The laboring class is very small; any reinforcements therefore can only come from the cultivating classes, and nothing but the severest distress would drive the better portion of these to our roads.

This increase has been general throughout the sub-division, and the daily average now amounts to the large number of 17,389. These then—1*st*, the rapidly diminishing stores of the cultivating classes, and 2*nd*, the increasing dependence of the people on Government—are the two most significant facts during the present fortnight. The census inquiry also shows

are considerable numbers of respectable widows who in ordinary times depend on bands' relations, and who are now turned adrift. These cannot work, nor do they (in a few rare cases) apply for charity, but they are in the greatest distress. It is further that some villages have come to the very verge of starvation; while others, and ely the majority, can still hold out for some time. But in all there is a general uneasi- most amounting to panic, and there is a spreading conviction that beyond a certain thing but help from Government will enable them to hold out.

In North Bhaugulpore things are better in Mudheypoora than in Soopole. he latter sub-division, the officer in charge writes:—

During the past fortnight I have been moving in all directions over the sub-division; though I have seen a large number of miserable emaciated objects among the lowest asses, still I think the condition of the people generally is surprisingly good. Our relief operations are, however, in full swing, and with the liberal allowance of works recently sanctioned in all directions, our golahs open for sale to the public and to the laborers on the works, I feel tolerably confident that we shall pull through this season of distress with very satisfactory results. But (adds the District Magistrate) the condition of the people generally is far worse than in Mudheypoora, and the anxiety and work entailed on all is consequently far greater; all that can be done will be done.

The Monghyr Magistrate thinks the people are beginning to feel grateful for the exertions Government is making to relieve them, though hardly understanding its motives. The February rain and the abundant *mohwa* crop have done much to improve the state of this district. Serious distress is now not anticipated. In Purneah things are rather worse in Kusba Amour, Dengra, and to the north of the Sudder Sub-division, owing to the continued want of rain and some failure of supplies. But the opening of the Government stores has met the necessities of the case, and it is reported that the people who come to the roads and poor-houses in a state of emaciation very soon pick up and improve in appearance. But, says the Magistrate, "no one who has seen the people coming to work could say there was no need for relief. Had there been no works opened and no grain distributed, the distress would have been terrible."

Rajshahye Division.

8. There is no special change to chronicle in Moorshedabad, Maldah, or Rajshahye. In Dinagepore distress has broken out in the Peergunge Thana on the Atrai, where it had been supposed relief would not be required, as the tract had had some crop of rice and an extensive cultivation of tobacco and cold-weather cereals. Steps were at once taken to open works and provide grain. Throughout the rest of this district the pressure is tightening, but the means of meeting it are effective. Reports from Rungpore are again unsatisfactory. The distress in the neighbourhood of Kamdya, Mallaparah, Aligan, and Rajahar is described as "very severe, and most of the people there are entirely dependent on the relief works. About 7,000 people, out of a population of 15,000 supposed to be suffering from the most severe distress, are daily working on the roads, and the numbers are still increasing, the mundals and headmen of the villages being utilized as duffadars." So from other parts of this district it is reported that distress is spreading, but the relief officers believe that they have it well in hand.

Pubna.

The condition of the people in Pubna, which had recently given some cause for anxiety, has improved in parts owing to the demand for agricultural labor caused by a heavy fall of rain. The supplies in the bazaars had increased, and the numbers seeking relief are as yet insignificant.

The health of the people

9. Fortunately the health of the people in most of the distressed tracts has continued good, and save in Rungpore, Rajshahye, and Moorshedabad, where some cholera had shown itself, there has been no epidemic to add to our troubles. The medical staff asked for by Sir Richard Temple has now been very nearly made up, and medical stores are being forwarded along with the Government grain to all parts of the famine districts.

Burdwan Division.

10. The state of the Bood-bood and Cutwa Sub-divisions of Burdwan was reported in last Narrative to have changed for the worse. Since then the Lieutenant-Governor has visited Burdwan, and a minute, embodying the orders he has seen fit to give, is forwarded.

The tract which is found to be the most distressed is that betw Adjai and Damoodur, where the rice crop was in many parts less than a q crop. Want has here also supervened upon the prolonged sickness cause the endemic fever, and it is often impossible to say which calamity has most effect in bringing the people to the state of wretchedness in which mai them appear. Relief, charitable and other, is however in this district availab in great abundance, and the number of people taking advantage of this is large and increasing. The means of communication are fortunately also many, and it may be hoped that the natural course of trade will maintain the necessary supplies in the bazaars. The Lieutenant-Governor has approved of the enforcement of the cooked food test in towns where it is difficult to ascertain the personal circumstances of each applicant for relief; but a modification of the circle organization in force elsewhere has been introduced for the distressed tract outside the towns. The subject of advances to ryots is also receiving consideration. In Beerbhoom there has been a good deal of distress, which would have been greater but for the timely provision of work and charitable relief. In Bancoorah also the numbers dependent on Government aid are fast increasing. The state of Hooghly and Midnapore seems, on the other hand, to be tolerably good, though of course the laboring classes are suffering somewhat from the high price of food.

Chota Nagpore Division.

11. From Hazareebaugh later reports are more satisfactory. The Lieutenant-Governor, having consulted with the Deputy Commissioner on the spot, has sanctioned the construction of a road along a pilgrim route from Gya to Deogurh as far as this lies within the Hazareebaugh District, and has requested the Commissioner to report, after inquiring locally, if more is required.

From Maunbhoom the district officer reports that, notwithstanding the gathering in of the lac crop, and the falling of the *mohwa* flower, distress is still on the increase, and the people have been driven to consume their seed grain. Last year was the worst of three bad years in parts of this district, and the people are, many of them, in a very impoverished state. The Deputy Commissioner's opinion is that the whole population of 16 pergunnahs will need assistance for three months, but that, if Government will help the cultivating ryots, these will find employment and support for the cultivating population. The Lieutenant-Governor has agreed to raise the allotment of Government grain, and directed the Commissioner to visit the district; and report fully on the kind and extent of any further relief required.

The reports from Palamow are decidedly more favorable. The worst parts are the pergunnahs of Jupla and Belounja on the Gya border, for which 10,000 maunds of Government grain are said to be required. In the rest of the district distress has been relieved by the crop of *mohwa*.

Mymensing.

12. The detailed inquiries made into the condition of that corner of the Jamalpore Sub-division of Mymensing, called Dewangunge, referred to in paragraph 15 of the preceding Narrative, have not established the existence of anything like severe distress.

It appears from the Magistrate's letters that the population of Dewangunge is 85,000; that the tract produces little winter rice, but depends for food mainly on its autumn rice, and on such imports as it receives from the neighbouring pergunnah of Sherepore; that the Dewangunge people exported their autumn surplus; that Sherepore has now no more winter rice to give them that stocks are extremely short, but that the people can well afford eventually to pay for any grain that may be advanced to them. It is not, however, made clear why private trade is so little to be depended upon for the supply of a small tract situated upon the great highway of Eastern Bengal, and the people of which are said to be well able to pay for what food may be taken to them. The Lieutenant-Governor would have hoped that a great exporting district like Mymensing would not have been in this position. He would have hoped that, by acting through or advancing money to zemindars and private traders, the local officers of Mymensing and Jamalpore would have been able to promote the supply of grain to Dewangunge; and he finds it difficult to think that there is absolute need for Government to import grain into a part of Mymensing where the principal food crop gave a 12-anna yield. Still, as the opinion of the Commissioner and Magistrate has been given very strongly, the

ıant-Governor has sanctioned their drawing from the Kaleegunge depôt ngpore 5,000 maunds of Government grain to be distributed as advances ots and others in Dewangunge, and a further supply of 5,000 maunds will ven subsequently.

The Presidency Division.

13. There is nothing further to report at present regarding the parts of Nuddea and the 24-Pergunnahs that are classed as partially distressed. The measures of relief adopted are sufficient, and preparations are being made to provide work on a more extensive scale should the demand for it arise.

State emigration.

14. Emigration to British Burmah has not as yet proved a source of material relief to the distressed districts. Of the total number of emigrants despatched up to the 25th April, *viz.*, 2,451, 1,585 were recruited in Calcutta and the rest came as shown below:—

From Hazareebaugh	50
„ Monghyr	348
„ Patna	370
„ 24-Pergunnahs	6
„ Sarun	92

Despatches of Government grain and the transport question.

15. The despatches of Government grain from Calcutta amounted during the fortnight to 12,13,923 maunds, making the total amount despatched up to date 77,87,868 maunds, or 288,439 tons.

16. A statement is forwarded showing the progress made in completing the grain allotments of the various districts. It will be seen that the allotments of Purneah, Bhaugulpore, Sarun, Chumparun, and all the districts of the Rajshahye Division have either been completed or are on the point of being so. The district transport has in fact everywhere, save perhaps in East Tirhoot, proved more than equal to the strain brought to bear upon it. As regards Tirhoot, it will be seen that there are still 17,71,737 maunds to be supplied, of which 14,78,157 maunds have to be sent from Calcutta. There are also considerable balances lying at the ghâts south and north of the river crossings. On the 26th April (the latest date for which returns are available) these amounted to 3,00,217 maunds. The Durbungah Railway has now, however, commenced running, and will carry off, it is reported, 28,000 maunds of grain daily (see Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the completion of this work). A contract has also been completed with the gentlemen to whose exertions the successful cartage of the Bhaugulpore allotment was due, under which 2,75,000 maunds are to be delivered at the Durbungah store-houses by the 10th of June. Bunkur Ghât, under Major deKantzow's energetic management, is sending away on the average over 17,000 maunds per diem, and can do more easily. Besides which, the reserve Government carriage from the North-West will now almost immediately come into use. This will consist of about 11,000 pack animals, chiefly mules and ponies, besides some 4,250 bullock carts. There is very little doubt indeed of the whole of the Tirhoot allotment being successfully placed before the rains. The local transport service has elsewhere, it will be seen, met hitherto all the calls made upon it. It has been found necessary to lower the Government despatches by the East Indian Railway. When the daily despatches of Government grain were raised above 2,500 tons, private trade was interfered with. The figures given in paragraph 5 above show how considerable that trade has become. The Government accordingly first directed that 2,500 tons should be the maximum to be sent daily until the accumulations of private trade had been worked off, and within the last few days the Government have for the same reason reduced the amount still further to 2,000 tons. This is, it may be hoped, only a temporary stoppage, and fortunately so many districts have been now supplied that it is not a matter of vital importance to press the railway overmuch. The railway staff has had very hard work for many weeks past, and it has been agreed to lend them twenty steady soldiers to act as guards to supplement the extra staff they have themselves had to engage.

Relief works.

17. The total numbers on relief works c given in last Narrative were—

	Last fortnight
Patna Division	806,878
Soane Canal Works	33,933
Gunduck Embankments	29,299
Bhaugulpore Division	87,198
Rajshahye „	167,871
Burdwan, Chota Nagpore, Presidency, and Cooch Behar Divisions	47,794
Northern Bengal Railway	12,475
TOTAL ...	1,185,448.

The figures for the present fortnight may be thus exhibited :—

	Total number of laborers.	Of whom are under circle officers on local and village works.
Patna Division	832,855	454,514
Soane Canal Works	38,783	...
Gunduck Embankments	24,750	...
Bhaugulpore Division	95,294	39,886
Rajshahye „	164,296	121,762
Northern Bengal Railway	18,418	...
Burdwan, Chota Nagpore, Presidency, and Cooch Behar Divisions	63,695	...
TOTAL ...	1,238,092	616,162

The system of relief works.

18. With respect to the character of these works, it may be said that if we set aside the Soane, Gunduck, and Northern Bengal Railway works, the returns for which are separately shown, there is probably not a single undertaking now being carried out in the distressed tracts which would have been in hand in an ordinary year. The small sums at the credit of the ordinary district road funds have long since been exhausted, and the works now being undertaken are either works which were specifically held in reserve for famine times or which have been specially devised to meet the emergency. Of course every effort is made to plan the relief works in such a manner as to make them of permanent utility, but they are none the less relief works in the very strictest sense of that term. That difficulties have arisen in the management of them is no doubt true. Famine labor is, and always has been, in India, as elsewhere, unprofitable and unsatisfactory, and many difficult questions arise here which have to be solved by local officers, less with reference to an ideal or perfect system of relief labor than to the exigencies of the present crisis. It may safely be said of most of the tracts where the numbers on the works have seemed excessive, that no middle course existed between employing the people as they have been employed and maintaining them in their homes in absolute idleness. What efforts have been and are being made to organize these great masses of people, to draft off the less able-bodied to village works, and to reform the abuses inseparable from the sudden strain brought upon an inadequate establishment, the note by Sir George Campbell and the remarks by the present Lieutenant-Governor, forwarded with the present Narrative, may serve to show. It is believed that the progress made in the time has been in every way creditable to the local officers; and certainly the Government, imperial and local, has spared no pains to bring the establishment up to a

strength more adequate to the demand than it was possible to make it at first. Every province has been indented upon, and almost every department of the public service has contributed its quota of additional aid. As regards professional supervision, all the extra overseers, save one, asked for in Sir Richard Temple's minutes have now been supplied, and all the district indents for tools have been complied with.

Tirhoot works.

19. Turning to the district narratives, it may be remarked that the most noteworthy occurrence of the fortnight has been the temporary desertion of the relief works in Mudhobunnee in consequence of the sudden substitution by the Public Works Department of a system of piece-work for daily wages. The subordinate local civil officers, as may be gathered from their reports, viewed this movement with considerable apprehension. For an explanation of its nature, and a history of its treatment, reference may be made to the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks in the latter part of this Narrative.

Sarun and Chumparun works.

20. In Sarun, the system, which was at first so unpopular in Mudhobunnee, is found to answer well. Though there are over 160,000 laborers on his works, the Magistrate demurs to the statement that the system of relief works in his district has been lax, if more is meant by it than that generally the daily labor system is lax as compared with a system of task-work suited to ordinary times. He says:—

On the works here the able-bodied men are employed in excavating, in regard to which piece-work (though not of course approaching to the task-work of ordinary laborers) is enforced as far as possible, while the women and children carry the earth. The people are employed in gangs, regular registers are kept of the names and residences of all employed, and by means of agency locally engaged every endeavour has been made to prevent peculation. The people here, many of whom are of non-laboring classes, naturally do not turn out nearly as much work as would be obtained under a system of task-work performed by ordinary laborers, but they are all locally employed. Returning to their homes at night, and by their employment in squads under mates, the disorder inseparable from the herding together of large masses is avoided.

The Sub-Divisional Officer of Ramnuggur in Chumparun writes:—

The distinction between public works managed by engineers and those managed by circle officers is not fully in force as yet. On all our works there is a tolerable outturn, and the most that can be is exacted. The only works that are really circle works are the tanks at Dhobenee and Songurh, which are almost entirely managed by Mir Tahurken, an influential resident of Tuppah Sathee. But the distinction is being kept in view, and plans of village works are being prepared, so that in case there is a rush we shall be ready. Gradually the system will be generally applied, and only those who do a really full day's work will be retained on Class I roads. At present we are doing our best to extend the system, and on all works the utmost labor that can be is exacted, and on the whole there is a fair outturn.

Bhangulpore works.

21. Generally throughout the Bhaugulpore Division task-work is enforced in the case of the able-bodied laborers on the public works, those who are unfit for this being drafted off to village gangs. In these districts many works are being executed by zemindars and others from advances made by Government. These zemindaree works are conducted on a loose system, and probably provide for many who in other divisions come upon the roads. No returns of the numbers so employed are generally obtainable, but in Soopole two native gentlemen between them find labor for over 11,000 persons. In the Sonthal Pergunnahs a sudden enforcement of the rule of task-work led, as in North Tirhoot, to a desertion of the works. The Lieutenant-Governor here also pointed out that if people are distressed, task-work must only be introduced gradually and judiciously; and really complete arrangements for relieving the weakly at their houses, or for actually drafting them into light labor gangs, must be prepared side by side with the introduction of task-work. There must be a competent officer on the spot, when the new system is introduced, to see that the people requiring relief are actually provided for if the task-work system should cause them to leave the road, and no attempt to introduce the task-work system should be made until these subsidiary arrangements have been matured. There

has been some reason to doubt whether in some other districts, besides the Sonthal Pergunnahs, these considerations have been sufficiently attended to.

Rajshahye works.

In Rajshahye, for instance, the substitution of task-work for the daily wage system had a similar effect; and here too it was pointed out that there were in times of scarcity limitations to the enforcement of the strict rules of public works. In most of the works in Dinagepore the labor test has been pretty strictly enforced from the outset, able-bodied men being made to do task-work, or, which comes to the same thing, being compelled to excavate a certain quantity of earth before they are entitled to full wages, only old men, women, and children being admitted at daily wages. But in Dinagepore the village headmen and respectable inhabitants have lent their aid freely for the management of subsidized house occupation, while a large number of laborers are employed near their homes in digging out and cleaning old tanks, thus making a permanent improvement in the water-supply of the district. Whenever a shower of rain makes tillage possible, it is found that the laborers here readily leave the roads for work in the fields.

The contract system and Government supervision.

22. In Maunbhoom the works have, it is now reported, been too generally in the hands of contractors—a system which has, it is feared, had a tendency to keep away those who are hardly fit to labor at contract rates. The argument in favor of a contract system is, that it provides supervision when the number of Government *employés* is insufficient for this; and it was, as has been already said, difficult, almost impossible, for Government to meet the demands of this kind made on it from the less distressed districts, when so much had to be done for those where the emergency was far more pressing. It was hoped that by a little trouble and energy Magistrates could have developed a local agency sufficient for their needs. It is, however, remarkable how various the practice has been, even in the greater districts, in connection with this matter of supervision. From Tirhoot, for instance, there has been a constant cry for more professional assistance, for engineers, overseers, sub-overseers, and trained subordinates of every grade. In Dinagepore, on the other hand, the masses on the works have been managed almost entirely by the civil officers and local agency. The administration of some districts has certainly shown much more of the quality of self-help than that of others. This subject has been touched upon very fully in the late Lieutenant-Governor's note of his visit to Tirhoot.

Relief works' accounts.

23. In order to clear up the accounts of relief works, and put their finance on a proper footing, Captain F. G. Oldham, R. E., Deputy Controller of Public Works Accounts, has been specially deputed to examine the accounts of expenditure on all works, both provincial and district, which are now being carried out in the distressed districts.

Northern Bengal Railway.

24. The work done on the Northern Bengal Railway is now equivalent to a bank 44 miles long and 4 feet high, while 31 miles of feeder roads have been finished. There are 9,653 laborers on the railway and 8,765 on the roads, or 18,418 in all—an increase of 5,943 over last returns. The Superintending Engineer reports that the people are not more largely attracted to the railway works because the line does not happen to run through the most distressed tracts as now known, and the people prefer lower wages on works near their homes, even though these may be only a moderate distance from the railway. It is at Putnitolla, near Dhupchanchia in Bogra, that the demand for labor is most marked, and the people are there evidently pinched. Prices have risen along the line, and the Government grain is selling readily to the laborers at 12 seers a rupee.

Irrigation Department works.

25. The number of laborers on the Gunduck embankments has decreased from 29,299 to 24,750, owing partly to the completion of the portions of the work lying near the villages, and partly to the wanton removal by the villagers of 2 miles of pegs along the line which necessitated relining that distance. Fresh work is now being provided. On the Soane Canal the laborers have risen from 35,893 to 38,783.

26. The number of relief centres and of the persons receiving charitable relief by the latest returns were in the principal districts :—

Charitable relief.

	Number of Government relief centres.	Persons relieved.
Gya	3	637
Shahabad	13	413
Tirhoot	250	86,552
Sarun	62	4,076
Chumparun	41	10,641
Moorshedabad	23	661
Dinagepore	19	9,596
Maldah	31	1,495
Rajshahye	19	1,558
Bogra	7	4,493
Rungpore	7	2,979
Bhaugulpore	32	4,340
Purneah	20	2,547
Monghyr	16	3,661
Burdwan	43	13,370
Beerbhoom	5	1,796
Bancoorah	20	3,386
Hooghly	7	1,140
Maunbhoom	10	600
Palamow	6	300
TOTAL ...	634	154,241

The return of relief centres is not by any means complete. In some returns only the number of relief committees is given, and in others only the number of relief circles of supervision, within each of which are many centres of distribution. The numbers given are therefore minimum numbers. Charitable relief again is given in several forms, as has been before explained in these Narratives. The most common form in Behar is what is called the ticket system of out-door relief, under which each infirm and necessitous person is registered and receives a ticket entitling him to a daily dole of uncooked rice, generally half a seer, from some Government golah. Thus of Mudhobunnee the sub-divisional officer writes: "Charitable relief on the ticket system is in full work throughout the sub-division. Cooked rice is also given to persons in want of temporary relief at all relief centres and at several other places, notably in the Sudder Circle. I have endeavoured to confine this to very small numbers, by giving no inducement to people to come repeatedly day after day. Few, except those in extreme want, avail themselves of this mode of relief." In Sarun 62 relief circles are at work, chiefly under the management of planters, who willingly render the most valuable personal assistance, but cannot be induced to render regular returns. In Chumparun, also, planters devote much time to superintending circles, while punchayets have been formed in the villages to distribute relief and look after the village officers, who in turn are bound to report all distress. In Dinagepore the circle officers work much through local native agency—zemindars, naibs, village headmen, and such like. These find out and register the persons requiring aid, and indent on the Government stores for grain; while inspectors go round and check the lists, ascertaining that the recipients of charity are proper objects of relief. The officer in charge of the Patiram Circle, who has worked this system most successfully, declares: "I think that no one, unless determined to rush to death, can now die of hunger; while at the same time the agency at my disposal is sufficient to prevent deception and fraud. It would be trite to observe (whatever may be the ultimate issue) that were it not for the care and forethought with which the present scarcity has been met, hundreds would long since have starved." In Rungpore the system has not yet been well organized. There are many large private food kitchens which are managed in a demoralizing way, cooked food being given to all applicants without inquiry. The village headmen here also seem less reliable than those of Dinagepore. The ways of managing them may perhaps differ. In most districts the cleaning and spinning of cotton and other light work has now been introduced for those who can

only work at home, or are unfit for out-door labor. No account is taken of private gratuitous relief in the returns.

Sale of Government grain.

27. Full information has been called for as to the sale and disposal of Government grain, either to laborers, or the public, or in charity. The district narratives and returns are as yet very deficient in this respect. The only places where the disbursements of grain have been at all considerable are Tirhoot, Chumparun, North Bhaugulpore, North Monghyr, Purneah, Dinagepore, and Rungpore. Sales to the general public are allowed only in parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Monghyr, Maldah, Dinagepore, and Rungpore; grain is offered to the laborers for sale in all districts having Government stores.

The rates charged depend upon the quality of the grain, as the quantity of husk in the Burmah rice varies very much. As a rule, 12 seers per rupee for clean rice is taken as the standard; 15 seers per rupee being the maximum quantity given of the rice having most husk. In Ramnuggur the rates are one seer dearer, and in Madhobunee and Durbhanga, 10 seers has hitherto been the rate of sale for clean rice. In those parts of Rungpore and Dinagepore where sales to the public have been allowed rice is sold to petty dealers at one seer per rupee less than to ordinary purchasers, on condition of their selling to their customers at the standard rate.

Advances.

28. The grants of advances for purposes of land improvement, or for the purchase and importation of grain into the distressed districts, have now in most places become infrequent. Advances to zemindars for the maintenance of their ryots, or to ryots on their own behalf, are, on the other hand, fast assuming important dimensions. The following are some of the details of advances on this account during the fortnight, which show considerable differences between the results in different districts:—

		Rs.				
In Tirhoot	... ...	14,979	(making Rs.		1,00,384	to date.)
„ Sarun...	... ...	14,467	„	„	3,59,371	„
„ Chumparun	... ...	5,500	„	„	1,39,226	„
„ Bhaugulpore	... ...	23,600	„	„	1,03,200	„
„ Purneah	... ...	1,750	„	„	36,900	„
„ Rajshahye	... ...	17,000	„	„	22,425	„
„ Bogra	... ...	6,600	„	„	10,000	„
„ Rungpore	... ...	1,31,310	„	„	1,48,400	„

The Lieutenant-Governor has intimated his wish that advances of this kind should now, as a rule, be given in grain and not in cash.

Of the Bettiah Estates in Ramnuggur, and the system of advances there, Mr. Howe writes:—

Mr. Gibbon's advances in January and December were well-timed, and have hitherto enabled the cultivator population to hold out. But they were necessarily insufficient, and something on a larger scale must at once be undertaken to prevent general distress and starvation among this the largest portion of the population, where food-stores are almost entirely exhausted, and who cannot, as a body, come on our works. For this purpose a scheme has been agreed upon between Mr. Gibbon and myself, which has been approved of by the Commissioner. The principal features of this scheme are these—

Each village is taken separately, and a tehsildar, or naib tehsildar, is deputed to make a detailed inquiry, which almost partakes of the nature of a census. A brief report of each village is drawn up, and registers are prepared showing lists—1*st*, of those not requiring advances; 2*nd*, of those requiring advances, together with a column showing what property they have; 3*rd*, those who work or are able to work on roads; and 4*th*, those fit for charitable relief.

The tehsildar divides villages into two classes, those (*a*) in which relief is most urgently required, and those (*b*) in which, though required, the urgency is less. The Commissioner has authorized me to make a small advance for a week or ten days in villages coming under class (*a*); and has directed me to send copies of all papers to Mr. Gibbon, who has undertaken to provide for all entered in these lists, or to accept an advance from Government on their account.

To enable the inquiry to be more complete, Mr. Gibbon has deputed a tehsildar of his own, who knows the parts well, to co-operate with mine. Any case in which there is a difference of opinion will be referred to the Commissioner, who, however, has authorized me in such cases to make a temporary advance should the necessity appear urgent.

29. The total amount of advances of various kinds up to date as extracted from the district narratives is as follows :—

		Rs.
Advances for purchase of grain	... .	14,01,477
„ for land improvement	... ...	8,10,985
„ to municipalities	... ...	29,000
„ to zemindars for help of ryots or to ryots	...	10,65,652
TOTAL	...	33,07,114

Lieutenant-Governor's Minute regarding his tour in Tirhoot.

30. The Lieutenant-Governor has been on tour in the North Gangetic Districts during the fortnight under report, and is still there. Sir Richard Temple has written from Monghyr, on the 27th April, the following passages to be included in this Narrative :—

"From April 16th to Sunday, 26th, inclusive, I was marching about the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions.

"In the Durbhanga Sub-division I found the relief 'circle' and 'sub-circle' or 'group' system completely organized in all its details. Every cluster of villages (from five to ten in number) was formed into a group or sub-circle with a native official, and a store of grain with its store-keeper; so that every village could be visited twice a week or even oftener, and Government grain be within reach at a distance of two or three miles at the furthest. Each sub-circle, too, was being frequently inspected by the circle officer and his assistants.

"The organization, as stated above, may seem simple enough. Its real magnitude and the difficulty of enforcing it will only be apparent when the area and population are borne in mind.

"Sales of Government grain to the public as well as to the relief laborers were generally going on. Some employment was still being given on the roads, but was for the most part afforded by the excavation of the old tanks in nearly every village. Piece-work (whereby a man receives so much according to a fixed rate for so much work done as ascertained by measurement) was being successfully substituted for the payment of daily wages. The agency of jeyt ryots or village headmen was being largely used.

"In one case only did I hear of any serious difficulty occurring from the cessation of daily wages on a road near Durbhanga. I believe, however, that the persons concerned, estimated at 20,000 in number, have by this time been safely drafted on to village works.

"The 'circle' and 'sub-circle' or 'group' officials had gone the rounds of every village in order to search out every fit recipient of charitable relief, and to give to each person of this description a ticket, entitling him or her to receive so much grain from the nearest Government granary. When a whole family was to be thus assisted, one ticket was issued for the family.

"Every circle had competent officers, most of them zealous and able men. I only heard of one exception, and he will be immediately replaced. There were subordinate medical establishments up to full complement. The public works were supervised by professional engineers and overseers.

"Of the sub-circle or group officials, some were good, others indifferent. It is very difficult to find on the spot good men of this class, and scarcely less difficult to obtain them from distant districts. I hope, however, to see this branch of the establishment improved week by week.

"The theory of the system then, as applied to a sub-division like Durbhanga, with a population of nearly a million, is good enough. If the practice is as yet imperfect in several respects, no effort will be spared to perfect it day by day. For instance, there was difficulty in some of the eastern circles in making the 'sub-circle' or 'group' officials search out all the fit recipients for charitable relief. These officials would go their rounds, make a list of such recipients in every village, and cause tickets to be issued. Presently the circle officer would go round to see whether this work had been completely done, and would find still here and there some feeble person who had not got a ticket, and so on. Much therefore depends on rigorous inspection.

"Despite shortcomings, however (which are, I trust, in train of rectification), the general, perhaps the universal, opinion, official and non-official, European and Native, at Durbhanga at this moment is, that the famine in that subdivision has been, and is being, checked effectually. As to the extent of the famine, opinions will necessarily differ. Those who do not reside in the midst of the distress may sometimes be incredulous of the magnitude of the misfortune. The statistics, however, though not always accurate, are in the main correct, and they reveal the great dimensions of the affair. The civil officers believe (which belief I fully share) that in most parts of this great sub-division the scarcity has reduced, or soon will reduce, the majority, in some places even the great majority, of the people to a condition of dependence on State assistance for several months.

"In the Madhobunee Sub-division I found the first noteworthy circumstance to be this, that the eastern portion known as the Alapore tract, and the extreme north-eastern corner of Tirhoot—where the destruction of the crops worst, which all native opinion pointed to as the probable scene of the ress—is not as yet seriously distressed. The best opinion seems to eing a surplus-producing tract in ordinary years, there are some- considerable stocks wherewith the people can for a time bear al loss of this year. Such stocks may be chiefly in the posses- no could afford to hold them in the expectation of famine prices, refer to sell now, seeing the Government preparations in all directions u about them. If the stocks are thus held, the question to be borne in mind is,—how long will they last? If they fail soon, I trust that the preparations are ample to meet the crisis that would immediately occur. Meanwhile the distress, though not so serious as elsewhere, is bad, and about one-fourth of the population are receiving assistance from Government in some shape or other.

"In the rest, about two-thirds of the Madhobunee Sub-division, where e failure of the crops was not so bad as in Alapore, the present distress is nsiderably greater. Food-grain is hardly to be bought, even at famine-prices many places, and in some places not at all. Over large tracts there are no ployments, no wages for the rural population. Multitudes, more and more, y by day, seek Government aid, either as laborers or as purchasers of Government grain, till at length the whole people, with individual exceptions, will come to be fed from our granaries. There is fair reason to hope, however, that our resources will prove equal even to this strain.

"One critical difficulty in Central and Western Madhobunee claimed my atttention immediately on my arrival there. Owing to the extraordinarily sudden manner in which towards the end of March the people flocked to the central relief roads under the Public Works Department, and to their unreasonable aversion to be separated into moderately-sized gangs among the village works, it had been necessary from regard to their safety to permit them to stay for a while upon these roads on daily wages. This plan, though quite unavoidable for a time, had a demoralizing effect upon the people, and led to many abuses. Accordingly the local authorities, in pursuance of the sound and excellent principles laid down in the note of Sir George Campbell of the 28th March, determined that the time had come when the plan of piece-work must be substituted for that of daily wages on the roads under the Public Works Department. The hope was that the better portion of the laborers would accept the piece-work terms at once; that another large portion would be successfully drafted on to the village works, and that those who might offer passive resistance by leaving the works and going out of employ would very soon see the advantages of the piece-work terms. The intention of the local authorities was good in itself; but the success in its execution was less than they expected. Almost the whole number, estimated at 200,000, left the works, declining the piece-work terms. A very few came back immediately afterwards on piece-work; a large number were drafted on to the village works under the circle officers; many who were not fit for any save nominal work were admitted to the lists of charitable relief. After allowing for all this, however, I found that numbers, estimated at 80,000 to 100,000, had remained out of employ for several days, subsisting on the little savings from their earnings on the daily wage system, but verging nearer and nearer towards the extremity of destitution. And although the 'circle' officers were busily attracting people

o the village works, their complete and speedy success was uncertain. It was necessary therefore to immediately reconsider the case. Inquiry showed that these ignorant people imagined the piece-work terms to be so hard as to prevent an ordinary untrained villager from earning subsistence under them, and thought it better to languish at home than perish on the roads. This erroneous notion had doubtless been propagated by head gangmen and others who gained improperly by the daily wage system. The terms proposed were not really hard; still there was room for doubt whether they were sufficiently liberal, regard being had to the inaptitude of these people for labor of this sort, to the large proportion of women and children, persons enfeebled by age or otherwise; to the hardness of the parched-up soil and other local circumstances, and to the high prices of all food-grains, including the Government grain. I therefore decided, after consulting the local authorities, to immediately promulgate new terms much more liberal, indeed as liberal as could properly be offered. In the neighbourhood of my camp large numbers returned to the roads on the new terms. But as the village works have been, and are being, extended in ev direction, almost within reach of every village, large numbers who the roads will prefer to work in the villages—a result much to be in one way or other, either on the roads or in the villages, I t all persons who were ever employed, or who can properly be e works will be receiving assistance in this shape. On the whole, the Madhobunee relief works, which did undoubtedly cause us a several days, will be re-established on a scale as large as, or larger than, e and this, too, with a distinct improvement in system. From what has been already said of the condition and prospects of the people, these works are needed on the largest scale practicable.

"But here the question arises,—what are the village works on which s much reliance is to be placed? They consist almost entirely of the excavatio or deepening of existing tanks, and sometimes of the construction of ne tanks. During this season of drought many tanks have dried up. They a now being dug out till springs of water are reached (at say 20 to 25 feet belo the general surface of the country). This operation will at once afford so water supply, the failure of which is much threatened everywhere. Ultimatel it will improve the permanent water supply of man and beast for future years One consequence of the present trouble will hereafter be the setting the tanks of the district in good order for very many years to come.

"The next question would be whether the 'circle' and 'sub-circle' or 'group' system in Madhobunee is so well established as to bear the increased pressure that will now be put upon it. Having tested several circles with a view of ascertaining this, I feel a fair hope that it will not be found at all wanting. There are good circle officers (with some few exceptions which will be set aside), with competent assistants with adequate supplies at command; there are the officials and the granaries in every group of villages; there are the sales of grain to the public; there are the holders of tickets for charitable relief in every village; there are the petty grain-dealers ready to distribute the Government grain; there are the head ryots ready to help in supervising the tank-digging portioned out to the villagers—in short, all the men in all grades are at their respective posts in a comprehensive and wide-reaching organization.

"Passing from the particular sub-divisions of Durbhanga and Madhobunnee which I have visited, I will add some remarks relating to other parts of the distressed districts, or to those districts generally.

"In Seetamurree, North-West Tirhoot, and in Bettiah and Ramnuggur, North-West Chumparun, the distress is not as yet so great as was expected. In Sarun the prospect is uncertain. In Soopole, North Bhaugulpore, the distress threatens to prove bad. By the most recent intelligence the position has become rapidly worse, while it holds off in the Monghyr District bordering on the Gangetic valley.

"Throughout Behar the want of spring showers has destroyed the hope that had sprung up of aid from various quick-growing supplementary crops.

"On the other hand, the successful harvesting of the fine spring crops on both banks of the Ganges has afforded relief to the neighbouring tracts of the distressed districts.

"As regards the contract arrangements (both large contracts and petty contracts) for transport in Behar, including the Patna and Bhaugulpore Commissionerships, those in the districts of Purneah, Bhaugulpore, Monghyr, Chumparun, Sarun, and in Western Tirhoot have worked excellently, redounding to the credit of all concerned. Besides commending the officers engaged, I deem it my duty to state that the non-official gentlemen engaged merit the thanks of the Province of Behar. But in Eastern and North-Eastern Tirhoot, the most important parts of all, the arrangements (though made on the same plan and principle as elsewhere) have proved less successful. Whatever deficiencies, however, may exist in this difficult line are being, and will be, promptly and effectually supplied by the two reserve arrangements at the disposal of the local Government—namely, the Durbhanga State Railway and the organized carriage obtained from the North-Western Provinces. The exertions of the engineer officers in charge of the State Railway works, and the co-operation of the Government of the North-Western Provinces, have been of vitally essential service to the relief operations in Eastern Tirhoot.

"Throughout Behar the public health continues more than ordinarily good. There is no sort of epidemic disease among the cattle at present.

"As regards the Rajshahye Relief Division, the distress in the Dinagepore District is less than was expected; favorable spring showers having fallen there, the period of distress will probably be shortened. In the Rungpore District the distress threatens to be quite as bad as, and in the Bogra and Maldah Districts to be somewhat worse than, was expected.

"In the Rungpore District, near the valley of the Brahmapootra, some outbreaks of epidemic cholera have disturbed the transit arrangements.

"On the whole, writing at the end of April, I find the situation of the distressed districts north of the Ganges to be not at all worse than the anticipation as expressed in my original estimates of the distress. In many places it is even not quite so bad; in some places (and those the most important) it is quite as bad. Thus, while there is no reason whatever now apparent for doubting the adequacy of the preparations by Government, neither is there any for hoping that we shall escape from a trouble of the magnitude which has been estimated. Under this view it will be found that the utmost activity prevails throughout the whole scene of our operations, in its length from the Gunduck to the Brahmapootra, and its breadth from the Ganges to the Nepaul frontier."

No. 17.

Seventeenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 1st to 14th May 1874.

Weather and rainfall.

In the early part of the fortnight rain fell over almost the whole of Bengal and a great portion of Behar. During the latter portion of the fortnight the weather has been intensely hot; rain has fallen in some districts; strong winds have prevailed. In the western districts the fall of rain has been general, the amount varying from a maximum of 2·10 in Burdwan to ·12 in Bancoora. Rain, varying in amount from 3½ to ½ an inch, has also fallen in all the central districts. There have been hail-storms in Moorshedabad, Maldah, and Pubna. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions there have been frequent thunder-storms. In the districts of Behar south of the Ganges no rain has fallen; it is much required. In Tirhoot 1·07 inches of rain are reported to have fallen, but the fall was not general, being confined to limited tracts of country. The want of water continues to be severely felt, and more rain is urgently required. In the Bhaugulpore Division rain fell everywhere during the first week of the fortnight. In Orissa rain fell in the Balasore and Cuttack Districts, but none in Pooree, where it is much required. In the Chota Nagpore Division there has been a general fall of rain. Complaints of the scantiness of the water supply are, however, still made in Maunbhoom.

State of the crops.

2. All accounts agree in ascribing the most beneficial effects to the recent rains, though more rain is much required. In Tirhoot rice is being sown on the low lands, and in Sarun and Chumparun indigo is being resown. The prospects of this latter crop are, however, not favorable. The rain fell too late to do much good to the lesser millet, which in North Behar is the only food-crop now in the ground. In the central districts the early rice sowings have been generally completed, and, if more rain falls, promise to germinate well. A larger breadth of land than usual is under this crop. The Collector of Dinagepore remarks that if the weather continues favorable, and a full crop of this early rice is reaped, all fear of famine in that district will practically be at an end. The harvesting of the *boro* rice has commenced, the outturn being generally quite up to the average.

Seed-grain.

3. The reports as to the sufficiency of seed-grain are generally reassuring, though in Maunbhoom it is reported that the seed-paddy has been to some extent consumed for food by the cultivators. The Lieutenant-Governor has given the subject of the supply of seed-grain much consideration, and his conclusions are embodied in a Minute.

Prices.

4. In the western districts there has been little change in the price of common rice; there has been a slight fall in Burdwan, Midnapore, and Howrah, and a slight rise in Bancoora and Beerbhoom. As regards the central districts, the price of common rice has remained stationary in Calcutta, Nuddea, Rajshahye, Pubna, and Darjeeling. In Jessore, Moorshedabad, Rungpore, and Bogra prices have fallen; in Dinagepore, Maldah, and Julpigoree they have risen, and in the 24-Pergunnahs the rise has been considerable, *viz.*, from 13 seers 5 chittacks to 12 seers the rupee. In the eastern districts there has been a considerable rise of price in the great rice-producing districts of Furreedpore, Dacca, and Backergunge; in the latter district the price has risen from 16 to 14½ seers the rupee. Elsewhere prices have either remained unchanged or are somewhat easier. In the Patna Division there has been a slight fall in the Pubna and Chumparun Districts, but the general tendency is upwards. In the Bhaugulpore Division prices are easier in Purneah, but there has been a rise of more than 2 seers the rupee (*i. e.*, from $12\frac{6}{16}$ to $10\frac{4}{16}$) in Monghyr. In the Chota Nagpore Division, there has been a marked rise in Singbhoom (from 20 to 16 seers the rupee). In Maunbhoom prices have fallen one seer the rupee. In Lohardugga they are stationary; in Hazareebaugh they have risen slightly. There has been no material change in the price of maize or Indian-corn during the past fortnight; but the prices of the various sorts of millet have generally risen in Behar and fallen in the Bhaugulpore Division. There has been no material change in the prices of wheat, barley, and gram, but a slight upward tendency is perceptible.

Supply of grain.

5. There are as yet no indications of any general deficiency in the food-supplies of the country. The abundant markets of the Punjab continue to meet the large demands which are made upon them. On the other hand, the diminution of the Government indents upon the carrying power of the East Indian Railway upwards from Calcutta has set free an amount of rolling stock of which traders have availed themselves to a considerable extent to send supplies of food to the famine districts. The eastern districts are also still exporting grain by river, but prices have risen at Backergunge, which would seem to point to a diminution in the available supplies in that important mart, or it may be that the rise is owing to the prospects of the future crop, which are reported to be unfavorable. A special report on this subject has been called for. On the other hand, many indications point to the rapid diminution, which in some cases amounts to almost absolute exhaustion, of local stocks in those parts of the severely-stricken famine districts which are remote from the great lines of communication. These districts are now largely dependent upon importations from without, and in some limited tracts stores, save such as are provided by Government, are at a very low ebb.

As might have been expected, this exhaustion of stocks is most marked in the three sub-divisions of Tirhoot (Durbhanga, Madhobunnee and Secta-

murree), which have throughout given greater cause for anxiety than any other parts of the country. In the earlier stage of the famine, although people flocked largely to the Government works, there was little or no demand for Government grain. The whole population was at that time living principally on Indian-corn and *murwa*. Matters have now greatly changed, and there is a great demand for Government grain everywhere throughout these sub-divisions. That stores, however, still exist in some of the bazaars in Eastern Tirhoot may with certainty be inferred from the fact that the villagers prefer advances of money to grain, although when money is refused they gladly accept grain in lieu of it. In respect to the remaining portion of the Tirhoot District, it is reported that the bazaars in the Tajpore Sub-division are sufficiently supplied with grain, but in the Sudder (Mozufferpore) Sub-division rice has become very scarce, and in the north-eastern circles it is hardly procurable. Barley, maize, and gram are procurable at high prices, but in insufficient quantities to meet the largely-increased demands now made upon them.

Private trade has been very active in the Sarun District. During the past fortnight 68,656 maunds of grain were imported into the Sudder, and 43,450 maunds into the Sewan Sub-division. The bazaars are for the moment sufficiently supplied everywhere. The Collector, however, sees reason to fear that the local stocks are nearly exhausted, and has applied for a further allotment of Government grain; but it has not been thought necessary at present to accede to his request. This district lies in the direct way of private trade from the North-West, which, when the rivers open, will probably develop rapidly. Importations are being made into Chumparun from the North-Western Provinces *viâ* Patna; but from the fact that it has been found necessary to open the Government stores very generally throughout parts of the districts, it is clear that the amounts held by dealers are in some parts insignificant and insufficient to provide for the wants of the people. In all the districts of South Behar the bazaars are well supplied with food, and the minor grains are obtainable at prices which are not very exceptionally high.

In Dinagepore private stocks of rice appear to be at a low ebb; and at Patiram, where the sales of Government grain had been discontinued, it has now been found necessary to recommence them. At the same time rice is generally still procurable in the bazaars, though frequently at a dearer rate than at the Government stores. In Rungpore, where very considerable quantities of Government grain have been sold, private trade is now bringing in large quantities. These importations are tending to make prices lower, and to relieve the demands on Government. In the remaining portion of the distressed tracts of Rajshahye, Bhaugulpore, Chota Nagpore, and Burdwan grain is everywhere procurable, though at high rates.

Burmah rice.

6. It is satisfactory to note that the people willingly accept the Burmah rice, although from the fact that in Dinagepore country rice is reported as holding its own at 8 seers the rupee in the presence of Government sales at 12 seers, it may be inferred that they would rather have the ordinary Bengal rice.

Private trade in grain.

7. The amount of private grain carried into Behar by railway stands thus for the fortnight ending 2nd May:—

	Tons.
From the North-West and Punjab	14,488
Calcutta and Lower Bengal	20,660
TOTAL ...	35,148

The figures last fortnight were 11,781 tons from the North-West downwards and 18,237 tons from Bengal upwards. There has thus been a considerable advance of private trade during the fortnight under review.

The question of the extent to which private trade has been interfered with by the Government operations will be found discussed in a paper by the Lieutenant-Governor, embodied further on in this Narrative.

Export of food-grains by sea.

8. The usual note on the movement of food-grains, and their export and import, is forwarded. The sum of the exports of food-grain to places beyond Bengal

from 1st October to 30th April, according to the latest returns received, was 205,130 tons.

Condition of the people.

9. The condition of the people is so far satisfactory that they are generally no worse off at the close of the past fortnight than they were at the commencement of it. When it is considered that the present season of the year is one in which there is scarcely any employment available for the agricultural laborer, and that, judging from the experience of past times, the pressure of famine should be now acutely felt, this feature in the reports is decidedly reassuring. The numbers in receipt of relief in some shape or other from Government have increased almost everywhere; but not in numbers greater than, or even so great as, was anticipated. The relief measures have proved adequate, and have obviated mortality from starvation. On the other hand, the truth of the remark made in the last Special Narrative that "there is no severe famine, simply because relief has prevailed over famine," is confirmed. From the Mozufferpore Sub-division of the Tirhoot District the relief superintendent remarks that he has "no doubt that distress would have been very severe if the people had not been provided with work." The Collector of Sarun says that a zemindar who accompanied him on a tour through the most distressed part of his district informed him that "thousands of the people would have died ere this had it not been for the relief works." From Chumparun it is reported that the people "are more anxious, and one and all declare that had it not been for the extraordinary exertions and forethought of the Government thousands must have already perished." In the worst part of the Rungpore District (namely, the country west of the Karutaya) "many hundreds of lives must have been lost but for the relief works." In the Bukhtiarpore Circle of the Monghyr District it is reported "that there is little or no grain in the bazaars, and but for the Government grain there would be actual famine there." These reports and other remarks of a similar nature, which will be found in many of the district reports coming from different parts of the country, are sufficiently conclusive as to the magnitude of the danger which has happily up to the present time been almost wholly averted.

North Behar. Tirhoot.

10. In the Madhobunnee, Durbhanga, and Seetamurree Sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District, in which distress was both more severe and earlier to appear than elsewhere, it is satisfactory to note that, in spite of some difference of opinion as to whether the people do or do not present "their normal appearance," all are agreed that there has been a "marked improvement" in their apparent condition recently. The testimony of the medical officer who is specially employed on famine duties in these sub-divisions is as follows: "By actual numeration with a note-book in my hand, I have observed, the following percentages as representing the condition of the people on the works:—

Normal condition	49
Under-fed	27
Emaciated	12
Aged	10
Actually debilitated through previous want of sufficient food ...	2

Remarks.—This is the amalgamated result of many observations; the figures vary much with locality, and the emaciated range from 2 to 25 per cent.

I have occasionally inspected the same villages at short intervals, and I can safely assert that I have noticed a decided improvement on every such re-inspection; in not a single instance have I observed deterioration." In the Tajpore Sub-division there has been no material change in the condition of the people, but the higher castes just above the laborers are beginning to feel distress more acutely. In the Mozufferpore Sub-division the state of things is worse than was anticipated, owing to the failure of the rubbee crops being greater than was expected by the most experienced planters and natives. In most of the circles of this sub-division the remedial measures which have been adopted have proved sufficient to check the distress, which without such measures would unquestionably have been great. But on visiting Kutrah, Mr. Worsley reports that his tent was surrounded by a crowd of starving and emaciated persons. The measures adopted by the relief superintendent were here inadequate; he has been removed from his post, and a complete system of village relief is now in force, happily before any deaths had occurred or

serious evil ensued. The numerous applications for advances made by ryots in this circle testifies to the reality of the distress amongst the middle classes.

Sarun.

11. In Sarun the condition of the people is generally good, but the returns of numbers on the relief works show that distress is increasing. In the Basuntpore thana high caste people have come on the works in large numbers, and the distressed appearance of the people attracted the special notice of the Collector on a recent tour; but, on the whole, distress is by no means alarming in this district. A minute by the Lieutenant-Governor on the present state and prospects of the Sarun District is forwarded with this Narrative.

Chumparun.

12. In the Ramnugger Sub-division, in which the scarcity has been more marked than in other parts of the Chumparun District, the condition of the people generally has undergone no material change in the past fortnight. But Mr. Howe notes a marked amelioration in the present condition of the laborers on relief works compared to what it was early in January: "It is now quite exceptional," he says, "to meet a person with that painful famine-stricken appearance which then was everywhere but too common." The condition of the cultivating classes who do not come to the relief works is not, however, satisfactory, and advances to these classes, which have already been considerable, will have to be largely increased before the rains set in. The condition of the people at Sohurrya, which lies at the north-west and therefore most remote corner of the Chumparun District, has given cause for anxiety, and on personal inspection, Mr. Howe found matters in a more dangerous state than he had expected. The sale of Government grain was at once commenced; the number of relief works increased; inquiries from village to village were instituted, and everything is now progressing favorably. This tract will, however, require careful watching, and Mr. Howe rightly proposes to visit it again shortly. From the remainder of the Chumparun District there is nothing very special to report. All who require and are able to work find employment; those who are fit objects for charitable relief are relieved. In the Motecharee-*cum*-Adapore Sub-division Mr. Oldham is able to report that after careful inquiry he has found no distress amongst high caste people. Three Brahmin women were on the works—"a girl of about 14, and her two little sisters of 8 and 9. She was unmarried; her parents, who are alive, being too poor for years back to afford the expense. She came from a village close by." It is satisfactory to note that even in the Ramnuggur Sub-division, where the distress is worst, the numbers on the works and in receipt of charitable relief, are well within the Lieutenant-Governor's estimate.

South Behar.

13. From South Behar the reports are satisfactory, and the Lieutenant-Governor has satisfied himself that no great anxiety need be felt about any save small exceptional tracts in these districts.

Bhaugulpore Division.

Bhaugulpore.

14. The reports from the Bhaugulpore Division and districts are generally satisfactory, as showing that the condition of the people has in most parts not deteriorated, and in those parts where more severe distress has arisen during the past fortnight, the Government measures have been sufficient to relieve it.

Purneah.

13. From Purneah the Collector reports that "the numerous works opened all over the country have undoubtedly kept the people from want. Elderly and sickly people who have come upon our hands at relief centres have died; but this would have occurred every year had hospitals and poor-houses been open. Against the few deaths reported must be set the large number of persons who come to us sick and weakly, and leave us well and strong. The deaths are—five in Bahadoorgunge, all from diarrhœa brought on from fever; one at Dengra from the same cause; two in the Sudder Sub-division due to natural causes. All these cases were inquired into, and it was ascertained that the persons had received relief, and had not died from actual want."

Monghyr.

16. In the portion of the Monghyr District south of the Ganges those ryots who were fortunate enough to secure a good rubbee harvest are storing grain for them-

selves more than in ordinary years in anticipation of a recurrence of the drought of last autumn. Their anticipations, however, appear mainly to be based on superstitious fear, engendered by the coincidence of three visible eclipses occurring during the current year. Severe distress appears to be confined to the Bukhtiarpore circle; but "even there, thanks to the relief afforded, distress is confined to those who are physically incapable of work. It is wonderful how soon the condition of the people improves under Government relief, and at each centre I visited (writes the Magistrate) several persons who have become almost stout are reported as having arrived at the relief depôt mere skeletons."

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

17. The condition of the people in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, in so far as can be judged from the reports of the responsible officer, continues satisfactory. In those portions of the district which he had visited, he says that "there is not the slightest doubt that the people are still in a fair condition."

Rajshahye Division.

Dinagepore.

16. In Dinagepore it is clear that the pressure of scarcity is gradually being felt higher and higher up in the ranks of the agricultural, and still more of the manufacturing, classes of the district. In spite of the ample measures of relief which have been adopted by Government, it is reported that "persons who have hitherto struggled to maintain themselves beyond the line at which charity begins are gradually falling into the ranks of pauperism." In the Rungpore District the large influx of supplies, both from Julpigoree in the north and Serajgunge on the south, has raised prices and afforded some relief; the operations of private trade have further been facilitated by the rising of the water in the Teesta. In spite, however, of the activity of trade, distress has increased rapidly in thanas Peergunge and Molong. In the former locality the condition of affairs has been aggravated by a severe outbreak of cholera. The relief works, although, as will be subsequently noticed, they have been carried out under too lax a system, appear adequate to meet the wants of the people, and no cases of misery or starvation are reported. In Bogra the condition of the people requires careful watching. It is to be hoped that the cutting of the early rice crop, which will commence next month, will aid in the removal of whatever distress exists. In the Maldah District there has been a marked increase in the numbers of persons on the works and in receipt of charitable relief, the increase being most marked in the Gomastapore thana; and the Collector reports that although no cases of starvation have occurred, at the same time "with the severe distress at present prevailing among the poorer classes except for relief measures, there would, in all probability have been some deaths." In the other districts of the Rajshahye Division there is no perceptible change.

Rungpore.

Bogra.

Maldah.

Burdwan Division.

19. The reports from the Burdwan Division are fairly satisfactory. In the Burdwan District, as elsewhere, private efforts have failed to support those who usually live upon charity, but who are now thrown upon the hands of the Government. Some deaths which were reported to have been caused by starvation were found on inquiry to be due to natural causes. In Beerbhoom and Bancoora also large numbers are coming in for charitable relief, many of them women physically able to work, but who were prevented from doing so either because they had very young children, or were of too high caste. Arrangements have been made for providing such persons with paddy to husk, or cotton to spin, at their homes.

Chota Nagpore Division.

20. In the Chota Nagpore Division, where the *mohwa* crop was unusually luxuriant, it is satisfactory to note that the health of the people does not appear to have suffered from free indulgence in this species of food, which is sometimes regarded as unhealthy. Cholera and small-pox have been reported in some places, but not in an epidemic form. The export and import trade in rice is still active. The Commissioner is about to visit the Hazareebaugh District, and has been autho-

rized to open Government stores in Koderma or Kurruckdeeha and on the Grand Trunk Road for the sale of grain to the public, should it be absolutely necessary to do so, although relief, either in the form of advances to ryots or as charity to those who are unable to work, is in the first instance to be preferred to the general sale of grain. Reports from Palamow are reassuring. Mr. Forbes, the Officiating Assistant Commissioner of Palamow, reports that "there cannot be a doubt that the people at large are far more hopeful as to the future than they were, and that the rubbee harvest and *mohwa* crop have gone very far towards alleviating the condition of the poorer classes. The outturn of both of these crops was far greater than was expected. The Commissioner has found the state of the Maunbhoom District to be as bad as the Deputy Commissioner depicted it, and the Lieutenant-Governor has raised the grain allotment to 2,10,000 maunds, and given other orders.

Presidency Division.

21. The only district in the Presidency Division in which actual distress has appeared is in Nuddea, where the poor weaver class, who are numerous, have given cause for anxiety. It has not as yet been thought necessary to open relief works for them, but they will be ready as soon as required. No actual cases of misery or starvation have as yet been brought to light, and the Collector reports that he has not seen any famine-stricken persons; that the condition of the people generally remains satisfactory, and that there is no increased anxiety or apprehension of famine, although professional beggars are, as might naturally be supposed, not so well off as usual. The water supply is excessively scanty over the greater part of the district, and had it not been for the abundant rains in January and February, the deficiency would have been very serious. As it is, some portions of the district have suffered severely from cholera, induced, it may reasonably be supposed, to some extent by the use of bad water.

Transport and storage of Government grain.

22. The despatches of Government grain from Calcutta amounted during the fortnight ending 11th May to 8,74,997 maunds, making the total amount despatched up to date 86,34,544 maunds, or 319,797 tons.

23. A statement is enclosed showing in detail the present state of the deliveries of Government grain district by district. The Lieutenant-Governor has been able to reduce the allotments of Monghyr, Gya, Shahabad, and the Soane Canal, and has decided after inquiry that Sarun need not at present receive more than was originally intended for it. The only districts to which grain is now being sent from Calcutta are Tirhoot, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and Maunbhoom, and there remain only 25,904 tons to be despatched from the Presidency, besides about 16,766 still due from the North-West, for Tirhoot, Gya, and Shahabad. The Government is thus beginning to see the end of the great task it undertook, and the local officers have the satisfaction of knowing that they have succeeded in a work that at one time seemed almost hopeless. Tirhoot alone has still a good deal of grain to carry. The Durbhanga Railway has as yet carried only an average of 12,494 maunds of grain per diem, owing to the demands made on it for the conveyance of railway material, coal, and fodder. The provision of fodder for the cattle and of material for making the line permanent is, however, almost as important as the carriage of grain; but arrangements have now been made for carrying the fodder by carts, so that the railway will carry much more grain than before. Enclosed will be found papers showing how it is proposed to work the line.

Although both Rungpore and Bogra have, in common with the other districts of the Rajshahye Division, received their full allotment of grain, their inland transport has not been very satisfactorily worked. The Lieutenant-Governor has deputed two experienced transport officers from the Bhaugulpore Division to assist in finishing off the work of these districts. Another experienced officer has been sent to Burrakur to organize a regular transport service into Maunbhoom, the allotment of which district it has (as already noticed) been found necessary to raise to 2,10,000 maunds. By these means it is hoped that even in the most backward parts all the grain may be stored before the rains.

Relief works.

24. The total numbers on relief works as given in last Narrative were:—

	Last fortnight.
Patna Division	832,855
Soane Canal Works	28,783
Gunduck Embankments	24,750
Bhaugulpore Division	95,294
Rajshahye Division	164,296
Northern Bengal Railway	18,418
Burdwan, Chota Nagpore, Presidency and Cooch Behar Divisions	63,695
TOTAL ...	1,238,091

The latest returns exhibit the following totals:—

	Total number of laborers.	Of whom are under circle officers, on local and village works.
Patna Division	912,074	516,728
Soane Canal Works	41,019	.....
Gunduck Embankments	23,964	.....
Bhaugulpore Division	100,092	43,272
Rajshahye „	209,635	139,495
Northern Bengal Railway	19,452	.....
Burdwan, Chota Nagpore, Presidency and Cooch Behar	67,165	.....
TOTAL ...	1,373,401	699,495

25. The history of the past fortnight in respect to relief works is chiefly noticeable, in so far as it shows the progress which has been made in the endeavour to substitute piece-work for daily payments concurrently with the development of the system of village relief.

Patna Division.

The system now adopted by Mr. Metcalfe in Madhobunnee is in entire accordance with the principles laid down by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 25th of last month. "On every tank," he says, "laborers have been given distinctly to understand that they were at perfect liberty to work either at task-work or at daily labor. The allowance for daily labor has been so proportioned that it is just sufficient to subsist on with some degree of comfort. On the other hand, the reward for task-work has been extremely liberal: this holds out an inducement to those who were willing to work, and able to work, to earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. It has always been possible for a man to make his 4 annas a day at task-work. This, with rice at one kutcha seer for the anna, is very high pay indeed for one who is not a professional coolie. The consequence of this system is, that those who are weak and unable to do much work, find such light work to do on the tank as they are capable of doing, and for this daily labor obtain enough food to last for the day. On the other hand, all the able-bodied men take piece-work, and are the real effective coolies on the tank." The system thus adopted has met with a very fair measure of success in the sub-divisions of Seetamurree, Madhobunnee and Durbhanga. The numbers employed upon works continue to increase, but the returns show that works under the immediate superintendence of circle officers are becoming more numerously attended; thus proving that the system of village relief is beginning to work well. As regards the Sudder, Hajeepore and Tajpore Sub-divisions, the report of Mr. Worsley is satisfactory in respect to the system upon which the relief works are carried on, and the absence of any demoralizing effect engendered by undue laxity of supervision. "It is not," he says, "the attractiveness of our relief works, but sheer absolute want, that induces villagers to desert their homes *en masse*, and so long as they have, or can see, means of keeping body and soul together without migrating elsewhere, they will endure a vast amount of privation and misery without complaint." A judicious selection of laborers has been made; the strong, able-bodied men are being employed on piece-work; the weak men, the women, and children are in receipt of daily wages. No difficulty has been experienced in working the two systems

side by side. In Sarun, piece-work has been to some extent introduced, though in this district the daily wage system has worked fairly well, and has not led to the abuses noticeable elsewhere. But the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that piece-work should be enforced as much as possible.

Rajshahye Division.

26. In Dinagepore the task-work system has been introduced. The Collector (Mr. E. Lowis) says: "I am quite sure the introduction, so far, of a labor test has done good, for the people were getting to depend too much on Government help, and to feel sure that they were to be helped instead of helping themselves. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, is afraid that in one instance the change was too hurriedly made and without due consideration for the weak and sickly. Every effort should now be made to complete the village system of relief before the commencement of the rains, for, as Mr. Lowis observes, "after June our relief operations, as far as employing labor is concerned, will cease, for not only will the rains stop all road-making and tank-digging, but the cultivation of the winter crop demanding constant attention to ensure a good return, the villagers must be a great deal at their homes." The Lieutenant-Governor has urged on the Relief Commissioner the necessity of extending the group system in the more distressed parts of all those tracts. In Rungpore the evils incidental to the system of daily payments, which are to some extent unavoidable if the people are to be kept alive by the State, have shown themselves, but are being rectified.

Bhaugulpore Division.

27. In many parts of the Bhaugulpore Division the people have throughout shown a reluctance to come upon the works. This reluctance is most marked in the Purneah District, where, in spite of the undoubted scarcity, the daily average of persons employed on works during the past fortnight amounted only to some 25,000 in a population of ¾ million. The localization of distress, even within the boundaries of any one district, is clearly shown by the reports from Monghyr, in which district, although "actual famine" was impending over the people in one tract (the Bukhtiarpore circle), in others "there was some difficulty in getting laborers to work on and complete the roads which have been begun, and the rate of wages has been raised from Rs. 1-14 to Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet. The Kurruckpore works employ 2,881 people only, although 10,000 are wanted."

Chota Nagpore Division.

28. In the Chota Nagpore Division the completion of the rubbee and *mohwa* harvest has had the effect of increasing the numbers on the relief works. In the Maunbhoom District the Deputy Commissioner has complained of his inability to give employment to all who seek it, on the ground that the supervising agency is inadequate. He has been directed by the Commissioner not to rely exclusively on professional assistance, but to employ such overseers of moderate experience as may be locally available.

Payment in grain.

29. Recent orders by the Lieutenant-Governor, in regard to the more general payment of wages in grain, are forwarded.

Northern Bengal Railway.

30. The work done on the Northern Bengal Railway is now equal to 66 miles of 4 feet bank, while 47 miles of feeder roads have been made; 19,452 persons were employed during the fortnight. The Lieutenant-Governor has had some doubt whether the comparative failure of the railway works to attract labor from the distressed tracts round has not been due to the too rigorous enforcement of task-work. The matter is under inquiry.

Irrigation Department works.

31. The number of laborers on the Gunduck Embankments has fallen off in Chumparun, owing partly to the people leaving the works for their fields after the rain of the 20th April, and partly to differences between the contractors and coolies which have now been adjusted. The average number employed during the fortnight was 23,964. The numbers on the Soane works have increased to 41,019. An attempt is being made to get a large gang of laborers over from Sarun.

Charitable relief.

32. The number of relief centres and of the persons receiving charitable relief at the hands of Government in the chief distressed districts is now as follows:—

	Centres.	Persons relieved.
Gya	3	822
Shahabad	13	2,361
Tirhoot	250	108,278
Sarun	65	4,076
Chumparun	63	9,019
Moorshedabad	23	2,739
Dinagepore	152	12,828
Maldah	27	3,382
Rajshahye	19	4,192
Bogra	14	8,199
Rungpore	24	8,340
Bhaugulpore	32	7,413
Purneah	25	1,395
Monghyr	16	3,176
Burdwan	43	13,725
Beerbhoom	5	3,600
Bancoora	20	6,729
Hooghly	7	1,925
Maunbhoom	10	5,776
Palamow	6	426
TOTAL ...	817	208,401

33. The system of charitable relief was described in the last and preceding Narratives, and need not be here again discussed. The increase of distress in the Sudder Sub-division of Tirhoot has rendered necessary the extension of the circle and group system of relief. The European planters have here come forward readily to assist, and an account of the arrangements made, together with a Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor acknowledging their aid, will be found enclosed.

Reserve of officers.

34. The Lieutenant-Governor, looking to the arduous nature of the relief work and the probability of officers engaged therein being from time to time invalided, has, with the aid of the Government of India, made arrangements for a reserve of officers to fill up vacancies. A letter describing these arrangements in detail is forwarded.

Medical inquiries.

35. The Royal College of Physicians having called attention to the points which ought to form the subject of special notice at a time of famine, Dr. Coates, the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, has been deputed to visit the worst famine districts, to consult with the local medical officers, and direct the course of their observations.

Emigration to Wynaad

36. Some correspondence has passed with the Government of Madras regarding a proposal to encourage emigration from Bengal to Wynaad. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused the terms offered by the Wynaad planters to be made known, but has pointed out that the plan is not likely to succeed without more elaborate arrangement.

Telegraph Department.

37. The services rendered by the Telegraph Department during the famine operations have been signal. The rapidity with which temporary lines have been run up, and the efficiency with which they have been worked, have been very creditable to all concerned, and the Lieutenant-Governor has acknowledged in a Minute the good service done.

38. Sir Richard Temple writes from Monghyr on the 11th May the following remarks for inclusion in this Narrative:—

"During the fortnight under review I have been in the districts on the bank of the Ganges, and have had opportunities of conferring with the officers of the districts of Purneah, Maldah, Sonthalia, Monghyr, Shahabad, and Sarun, and the measures which were being adopted were found by me on examination to be suitable to the circumstances of each district.

"A part of my time has been occupied in revising the administrative orders regarding the several branches of relief operations, so as to adapt these orders to

the circumstances which are now developing themselves at the beginning of the worst period of the scarcity.

"The subjects thus re-considered in detail were:—

Elaboration of returns of relief laborers.
Introduction of piece-work.
Sale of Government grain to the public.
Advances of food-grain to cultivators.
Support of high caste people and others unable to work.
Supply of seed-grain.
Transfer of relief laborers from roads to village works.
Extension of the "group" or sub-circle system in relief operations.
Methods of paying relief laborers in grain.
Reserve of officers and officials to supply casualties in the relief establishments.

"There seem to be apprehensions entertained by some that the sale of Government grain to the public will be so managed as to interfere with private trade; that it will be ordered at places where such trade is active at rates below the market rates; that the places, the conditions, and the prices of such sales will be left to the discretion of the relief officers on the spot without any fixed principle; that, as a consequence, these sales will often be carried out at places where but for them private enterprise could and would have done all that was required. I think, however, that such apprehensions must arise from imperfect acquaintance with the intentions and policy of the Government; and inasmuch as private trade in the distressed districts is of vital importance—as the Government supplies, however great, could fill only a part of the vacuum caused by the destruction of the harvests—I will endeavour to explain briefly the present position of the case.

"The sale of Government grain to the public is now ordered under clause *g.*, Rule 3, Part II of Rules promulgated by the Government of India on the 5th March last, which clause runs thus:—

If a serious deficiency of grain in any part of their district is apprehended which the trade is unable to supply, the sub-divisional committee may, under instructions from the Collector of the district, make arrangements for the sale of grain from Government stores. The arrangement should, as a rule, be made through the agency of the traders, which will probably be available everywhere. The selling price should be fixed at that of the nearest large mart, where supplies are readily brought in by railroad or river, together with such addition representing the cost of transport as may be considered proper. Sales should be stopped as soon as the local trade receives sufficient supplies, and any competition with the local trade should be carefully avoided.

"Here then is the principle as laid down by the Government of India, by the careful and judicious carrying out of which much suffering may be averted in the most distressed tracts. The sales are being regulated by this rule and no other, and it is the duty of the administration to give the people the benefit intended for them by this excellent regulation. The rule leaves little discretion to the executive save in one respect—namely, the determination of the places where there is apprehension of deficiency, and where consequently the sales shall take effect. That is a matter necessarily dependent on local inquiry. The best way of illustrating the view which has been taken is to state the places where the sales have, and have not been, ordered.

"In the eastern parts of the Madhobunee and Durbhanga Sub-divisions, sales were ordered at the very end of February in the recorded expectation that supplies were deficient and that wide-spread distress was imminent. This was amply justified by the result, inasmuch as distress did break out in the middle of March. Subsequently, as the distress became worse, and as the grain dealers stated their supplies to be exhausted, the order for sale was extended throughout the Madhobunee Sub-division. The tract is remote, and the traders have been repeatedly appealed to without effect. It has not yet been extended over the remainder of the Durbhanga Sub-division. But in the city of Durbhanga fires having destroyed part of the private stores, Government rice was sold for a few days till the trade supplied itself. Recently the supplies have fallen short again, and the sale of Government rice has been authorized for a time. Probably the sale will have to be authorized in most of the remaining parts of the Durbhanga Sub-division.

"In a tract of country near Mozufferpore (Tirhoot) sale has been ordered at the urgent representation of the Collector that the people were in straits for food. Recently in the town of Mozufferpore supplies being reported short, sale has been ordered temporarily till the trade can supply itself.

"In those parts of the Seetamurree Sub-division, which are similarly circumstanced with Madhobunee, sale has been authorized, and is going on.

"In the Ramnuggur Sub-division (Chumparun District) the markets being empty, the position of the people becoming critical, and there being little hope from trade, sale has been ordered. The local officers describe the effect on the people as excellent.

"In the Sarun District, notwithstanding the increase of distress, it has been decided not to sell, as trade continues very active. A similar decision is formed as regards the Shahabad and Gya Districts. In the city of Gya alone the prices have been very dear, and the place is situated in the tract where the crops were worst. It may perhaps be necessary to sell there for a time. The Patna District being not distressed at all, the question of sale has not arisen there.

"In North Bhaugulpore (Soopole Sub-division) distress becoming urgent and supplies short, sale has been ordered, and is being carried out.

"In the Bukhtiarpore Sub-division of the Monghyr District sales have been ordered; the Collector reports it to have been the means of averting famine.

"In the Sonthal District the question of sales to the public has not arisen.

"In the Purneah District sale was authorized in March in certain places near the River Mahanuddee. Subsequently in one of these places a trader offered to send up supplies, whereupon the sale was suspended.

"In the Dinagepore District the district authorities had recommended selling in January, but the Government deferred giving sanction. Subsequently sale was authorized at several places in March, the stock available being apparently short, and the local traders having declared their inability to bring in sufficient supplies. The time of beginning sale was, however, left to the decision of the district officers, and they have been so cautious that up to date they have sold but a moderate quantity. Application was made for sale in the northern part of the district by reason of depletion of the market from exportation: this was refused.

"In the Maldah District the importation by private trade was at one time considerable, but it has fallen off recently to a degree which causes apprehension. The authorizing of sale has been considered, but has not been granted.

"In the Rungpore District the state of the grain market caused alarm, and the Collector was obliged to order sales for a time. Subsequently the hope of trade supplying that market being disappointed, the continuance of sale has been authorized, with extension to another market a few miles to the north. Other important sales were ordered at Kaleegunge on the bank of the Brahmapootra. This grain was sold to local traders, on condition that they would convey it to certain marts in the distressed tracts, and sell it there. Owing to epidemic sickness, the transport had failed temporarily, and it was hoped that the traders would manage the conveyance. In many parts of the district the import trade from the east bank of the Brahmapootra has been very active.

"In the Mymensing District it was reported that one tract had exported all its grain to distressed neighbours till the markets were empty; that the people had money, but there was no food to buy; that some Government rice must, to save life, be sent for sale. After some demur, this was acceded to.

"In the Bogra District sale was authorized in one place adjoining the distressed parts of Rungpore and Dinagepore.

"In the Rajshahye District a private application was made for sale, but was refused.

"The quantity of grain sold under these limited orders in the several districts is small comparatively as yet, and is less than 10,000 tons. Those who have heard the eager, nervous, anxiety with which the people would ask when the Government storehouses were to be opened, or who have seen the crowd of expectant purchasers gathering round the Government retail dealers, know how necessary the measure was, and how much relief may be yet afforded by it.

"From this summary of what has been done regarding sale of Government grain to the public, we see that Rule 3, Clause *g*, has not been brought into play to any excessive degree, and that it cannot have had any adverse influence on private trade. The places and tracts to which the orders for sale apply constitute but a small portion of the distressed districts—not more than one-fifth of the whole. The southern half of Tirhoot, the south-eastern part of Chumparun, the whole of Sarun, Shahabad, Gya, and Patna, two-thirds of Bhaugulpore, three-fourths of Monghyr, two-thirds of Purneah, the whole of Maldah, the northern half of Dinagepore, four-fifths of Rungpore, almost the whole of Bogra, are as yet entirely free from sales of Government grain, and continue to offer an excellent field for private enterprise. Whether the sales be hereafter extended over these last-named tracts will mainly depend on the action of trade. If it shall be found that the supplies are not being brought in by trade, and distress is threatened, then succour must be immediately afforded to the people from the Government stores. But even the sales which have been ordered would be immediately suspended if the trade brought in supplies.

"The price at which Government grain is sold is fixed with reference to the rule already quoted, that is, according to the prices at the nearest large mart accessible by rail and river, *plus* such addition as may be thought proper. The rates actually ordered range from 10 to 12 seers of cleaned rice for the rupee; the larger part perhaps is sold at 12 seers. The rates are the retail rates at which local dealers sell the Government rice to the people.

"The prices for the Government sales, though more than double as dear as those of ordinary years, are yet considerably cheaper than famine rates, which may be stated at from 5 to 7 seers the rupee, under the status and circumstances of the Behar Province. These famine rates have for a time prevailed in many parts of the distressed districts; but the effect soon becomes neutralized by the relief operations. Whether such a result be open to economic objection or not, it must be attained if the people are to be saved. For the lengthened prevalence of famine rates in any locality means a slow-wasting misery to many thousands which can end only in death. This dreadful tendency has to be arrested and counteracted. And I believe it to be the universal opinion of natives qualified to judge, that but for the efforts of Government, famine prices and their fatal consequences would have ere this spread all over the distressed districts, but have been averted by the Government operations, and could not have been effectually averted otherwise. The fact that prices have more than once risen to famine rates, 6 and 7 seers of rice per rupee, at the two capitals of Tirhoot, namely, Durbhanga and Mozufferpore, under the freest action of trade, alone shows what the prices would have been in the interior, and what disastrous effects would have ensued but for the Government operations. The moral effect too, as acknowledged by the natives themselves, has been great. On the eve of famine, besides the fear of deficient supply, there is always another fear, namely, this, that those who have grain to sell will nevertheless hold it, hoarding against some future time harder even than the present, when society itself will be almost broken up by depopulation. I have repeatedly heard such dread expressed by the natives. But persons of this class (which is numerous and influential) seeing the Government enter the field with long strings of grain-laden carts, gather hope and assurance, and resume their business of selling. The effect of the Government measures in dissipating these alarms has been beneficial, and this, too, before any depôt has been opened or any grain sold. Still, however, despite these measures, despite also the high prices, and other inducements to sell, there are very many persons who hoard their grain against calamity yet to happen. This alone shows how extensive the hoarding would have been but for our proceedings.

"I have quoted the prices of rice as famine prices. If rice had been the only grain in the market, such prices must have caused great distress before the effect of the Government stores could have been felt. But happily there have been, and still to some extent are, other cheaper food-grains in the North Behar markets. The Durbhanga and Madhobunnee price currents show, however, that these grains are being exhausted; maize was quoted at 11 seers per rupee in the Madhobunnee statement for the 19th April, and the lesser millet at 9 seers per rupee in Durbhanga. In Chumparun and Sarun the

quotations for barley are still moderate. But though these grains supply a very substantial part of the food of the poor during a portion of the year, yet they are not largely consumed by the middle and cultivating classes. No large stocks of these grains are ordinarily kept, and according to the careful reports compiled by district officers at the beginning of the scarcity, rice constitutes the largest element in the food of the majority of the people of North Behar. It is therefore by the price of common rice that the natives themselves gauge the pressure upon a particular locality, and the Government has therefore adopted that standard in estimating the severity of distress in any sub-division or circle.

"The determination of the place of sale and of the price is not left to the discretion of the local officers; it has in no place been undertaken without the sanction of the Commissioner, and in most places the sanction of the Government has been previously obtained.

"In every mart without exception in the distressed districts special inquiry has been made of the local traders as to whether they would or would not import grain. In the most distressed tracts they generally said they would not. To all of them offers were made of advances of Government money if they would import grain on their own account. To a limited extent only were these offers accepted. At Patna an additional branch was made from the railway for Government grain in order to set free the previously-existing branch for private trade in the Tirhoot direction.

"Private trade has been, and still is, conspicuously active in Rungpore, Maldah, Purneah, and Sarun, and is becoming so in the remainder of the distressed districts. Its general activity has been increasing week by week as the season advances, especially in the direction of Patna, Tirhoot, and Chumparun.

"Without undertaking to say whether private trade would have made use of the abundant local carriage of Tirhoot if Government had not taken it up, I must observe that up to the end of January Government had taken up but a small part of the carriage, the greater part being available to traders if they could succeed in engaging it. Up to that time, however, private trade did not undertake much in that district. The field was open then, but it was not occupied.

"Owing, however, to the early completion of the transport work everywhere, except in East Tirhoot and in the Brahmapootra Valley, the greater portion of the vast amount of carriage recently employed by Government is now liberated for the service of any traders who can succeed in engaging it. The tens of thousands of carts lately in the service of the Government, or of its contractors, in Sarun, Chumparun, West Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and Dinagepore are now available. Further, a large amount of Government reserve carriage, collected beyond the limits of Bengal, is now employed in Tirhoot, liberating *pro tanto* the local carriage for the use of trade.

"Besides the sales to the public, there are the sales of Government grain to the relief laborers. The policy was laid down thus in the Governor-General's Resolution of the 7th November 1873:—

> The State will be in the position of an employer of labor on an unusually large scale, and is justified in doing that which all other employers do, namely, selecting the mode of remunerating its work-people most acceptable to them and most suitable to the surrounding circumstances. Such remuneration will generally be in kind—that is, in food-grain. For this particular purpose, then, supplies of grain will be purchased and laid in both by the Government of India and the local Government.

"The principle thus laid down has been acted on here and there almost from the commencement; still the progress was slow. Partly, our officers desired to afford every chance to private trade, partly also they were waiting till their own storehouses were filled. The general result was that up to the end of April very little of Government grain was used for the relief laborers. The time has now come for paying them in kind, either by distributing grain or by giving tokens on production of which grain can be obtained, or by supplying grain to traders to be retailed by them among the men.

"It has long been urged by the natives of all classes that some means of subsistence should be advanced to cultivators to be repaid at coming harvests. In some districts I have been pressed upon the subject by clamorous crowds of cultivators. Such aid would naturally be given in the shape of food-grain.

It was not possible to do this at first, and the aid was given in money; but now we have the means of affording it in grain, and we must be prepared for the demand increasing as the season advances. This proceeding will demand careful and detailed inquiry, so that the advances may be distributed among the right men, with due precautions for repayment hereafter. The agency of the zemindars will be employed in settling these advances, and the old resident cultivators of the villages will be invited to club together. Anxious inquiries on this subject are everywhere made by the natives When the rains set in the men must be tilling their fields, and are precluded from earning wages elsewhere. But what if there is no food to be bought, or if they have nothing to buy it with; or if to raise the means they part with their little capital, their seed-grain, and their cattle? The consequences of a failure here might be felt long after the period of the present trouble.

"It is this measure which can be most depended upon to prevent that which is so much feared—namely, the consumption for food of the grain which ought to be reserved for seed. The motive for this will be removed by a judicious system of food-advances. Whether seed will be forthcoming for all the sowing is a difficult question. Much seed-grain is held both by the trade and the landholding classes. The sowings for the early crops of rice have been extensive up to date, which promise well for the future. Still deficiencies may occur in some localities, and the local officers have been authorized to exchange a limited quantity of their food-grain for seed-grain to be reserved for sowing; and we are endeavouring to purchase a moderate quantity of seed-grain for distribution, if need arises anywhere.

"By some it may be thought strange that if there is so extensive a famine, so small a part of the Government stores should have been expended up to the beginning of May. The explanation is that we have given assistance to the people in money, lest our depôts should be prematurely drawn upon, and have postponed assistance in grain so long as that might be safely possible. In the first stage of the trouble the dearth was of employment rather than of grain, and we have acted accordingly. In the second stage, just beginning, the dearth may probably be of grain. For that we are prepared, as the stores are now *in situ*.

"Looking at the distressed districts as a whole, I should say that the first ten days of May, forming a brief though critical period, have passed off favorably. A fall of rain has afforded some employment in sowing for the next harvest, and has raised the hopes of the people for the future. Too much regard, however, must not be paid to such hopes. When in February last similar rain enabled the husbandman to sow some supplementary crops to be gathered in May, the people were in high spirits; but those very crops are in many places withered now. The public health has been good. The cattle have been free from epidemic disease. The increase of distress has been gradual; there has been no sudden flocking of people to the relief works. Though prices have risen in some places, touching for a moment even famine rates, there has been no panic anywhere. Though the number of persons receiving relief in its various shapes is rising, still it is becoming more and more possible to deal with the several classes of cases after due consideration and inquiry. The better enforcement of the labor system on all the works has progressed without any large numbers leaving the works in the manner described in my last Narrative. One case only of this nature, and this in a smaller degree, has occurred (in the Dinagepore District), and that is being inquired into.

"In attempting to enforce any change, however excellent, we must observe the shy, timid disposition of these poor, rude, untaught creatures—so prone to believe that any new order must be for their hurt; so ready to face inevitable death instead of trying to work on a plan they do not understand, and then to bear the lingering misery so silently that their state would not be known to us unless we searched it out. This description is drawn from our certain knowledge in many thousands of instances. Such is the character of the majority of the one million and a half of persons on the works, towards whom I have directed that the utmost patience and carefulness be shown, although there is an important minority of sturdy persons from whom a proper amount of work must be exacted.

"Persons of the Brahmin caste are becoming more numerous on the works. This is to be encouraged: high as the caste may be, its members may and do perform manual labor in the field; and where the men work, their families may do the same. So also large numbers of women, who ordinarily work with their hands at home, now work at the village tanks close by. They would not be fit recipients of charitable relief, nor would they be suited for the light work, spinning, &c., provided for women of the classes above them. But careful inquiry has shown that there are no women of delicate nurture on these works. Indeed, they cannot have any motive for resorting there. Such persons have only to apply for relief to the group officer, as he visits the village several times a week, and they would obtain suitable relief. I have given reiterated instructions for searching out such persons, who are often but too ready to die of hunger without making a complaint to any one.

"The conclusion gains strength everywhere, that the excavation of village tanks affords the best kind of relief work. Here is work close to the doors of the poorest. Here can the unpaid supervision of village headmen be obtained. Here is water to be reached in this time of drought.

"During the fortnight under review there has been marked progress in enforcing system on the relief works, and in exacting a reasonable amount of labor from those who are really able to work. Endeavour has also been made to induce the able-bodied to feel that they truly gain by exerting themselves on piece-work instead of idling on daily wages.

"I will not mention those zemindars who have failed to do what their duty required of them, because whosoever they are, I trust they will improve before the season of trouble is over. But I may say that in every district north of the Ganges several zemindars have already distinguished themselves. I have recently had the pleasure of receiving the zemindars of the Monghyr District and of thanking them for their services, which have greatly lightened the work of relief in that district. I expect that before the close of the operations there will be a long catalogue of creditable deeds done by the zemindars.

"I have also the satisfaction of acknowledging the assistance in relief operations afforded by the resident indigo planters in North-West Tirhoot, in North Chumparun, and in Sarun. The factories are so dotted over the Sarun District that there the organization of the circle and sub-circle system has been found unnecessary. The relief circles or sub-circles in these three districts managed by indigo planters are full one hundred in number.

"In several districts the officials for the 'groups' or sub-circles, consisting of from five to ten villages each, are found from among the village accountants (putwarees) and the headmen (munduls)—which again is a satisfactory circumstance.

"The transport of grain has been completed some weeks before the time in Sarun, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and Dinagepore. Some work, comparatively inconsiderable, remains in Rungpore, Bogra, Maldah and Monghyr, Gya, and Shahabad; but in East Tirhoot alone is there anything of consequence remaining, and so many resources are now being brought to bear on that one line that completion within the time is probable. Out of 346,911 tons to be transported north of the Ganges, 293,111 tons have been carried towards the interior from the north bank of the river up to date. Considering the anxiety once felt about the inland transport, I trust that this result will appear satisfactory.

"Finding the distress to be certainly less than the expectation in the Monghyr, Gya, and Shahabad Districts, I have made some reduction in their allotments of grain.

"It is very difficult to give a precise number of all the persons who in some shape or other are at this date receiving assistance from Government. But taking all those employed on works or on famine service, receiving charitable relief, purchasing Government grain, receiving advances, benefiting by advances made to landholders and traders, I calculate that the total must amount to nearly two millions, though I do not think it exceeds that number. This calculation affords answer to the natural inquiry as to the real extent of the famine. Out of so large a number there must be some unworthy recipients of public bounty, and some who might have tided over the trouble without

resorting to relief works: but most of the above number really need the aid they are receiving; many of them would be in dangerous distress without it, and but for it many of them would perish. And besides these there must, I fear, be an unknown number in severe straits who have not yet reached the stage of seeking Government assistance. And from what I have seen I should say, that the lowest classes in Tirhoot and in some other districts have a very poor physical constitution, and obtain but a stinted and precarious livelihood in ordinary times. When therefore the price of grain is more than doubled, perhaps trebled (as it now is), and simultaneously employment grows slack, these weakly people fall into trouble, under which their little strength fails fast. I have been happy to receive reports from all quarters of the improved appearance of these poor people after they have been on relief works for a short time, which proves that, despite shortcomings and faults in our system here and there, they have been well cared for and punctually paid.

"The reserve of officers and officials on the relief operations (numbering 750 in all) is being formed in the proportion of one-tenth upon the strength now in active employment, in order to replace casualties and to fill up other deficiencies. I have to testify strongly to the humane and devoted conduct of the large body of officials of all grades employed on this difficult service under exposure to a fierce climate at an inclement season. If the famine is to continue, as at present, bound down and confined by the arm of administration, we must largely depend on the skill, foresight, and endurance of our officers of all grades."

No. 18.

Eighteenth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 15*th to* 28*th May* 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Richard Temple) writes from Monghyr on the 25th May the following remarks to be included in this Narrative:—

"During the fortnight I have been staying on the banks of the Ganges in the midst of the distressed districts, and holding frequent conferences with the principal officers.

"The main points under consideration during the period—

1*st*.—The number of persons receiving, or likely to require, assistance from Government in some shape or other.

2*nd*.—The completion of the transport of the Government grain, and the available resources in respect of carriage.

3*rd*.—The consumption of Government grain, and the amount remaining in store.

4*th*.—The system of labor and payment on the relief works, and the progress of charitable relief.

5*th*.—The prospects of the season.

6*th*.—The general working of the relief system.

"The first point then relates to the number of persons receiving or likely, to require, assistance from Government. Writing on the 11th May, just a fortnight ago, I stated the number to be 2,000,000 as nearly as could be made out. A week later, writing with corrected information in several respects, I have (in a separate Minute) stated the number as 2,224,000. During the several subsequent days the number is known to have been increasing everywhere. I now estimate the total at upwards of two millions and a half, which number may be expected to increase day by day for some little time to come. It might, however, increase considerably before reaching the maximum number of our estimates—three and a half millions of souls. The persons counted as receiving assistance from Government are relief laborers, recipients of charitable or gratuitous relief, purchasers of grain from the Government stores, and cultivators obtaining from Government advances of food-grain.

"The numerical increase will probably not be in the heading of relief laborers; they may ultimately amount to one million and a half, but there are many reasons for thinking that all or nearly all of those who would naturally resort to labor for relief have already been attracted to the works, large and small, which are now well within reach of every village. The number of those on charitable relief will increase no doubt, and may soon exceed a quarter of a million, and may further increase. But unless some new circumstances

should develop themselves during the rainy season, we may hope that this category will not swell to such a degree as to considerably affect the totals. It is rather under the head of 'purchasers of grain from Government stores' that the increase is to be expected. In my last Narrative (11th May) I described the tracts and the places where the sale of Government grain is going on. The measure has not been since extended anywhere save in the sub-divisions of Durbhanga and Seetamurree, and on the north frontier of Chumparun. At Durbhanga the native grain merchants distinctly stated that a comparatively small stock of rice remained in East Tirhoot; that little or none was immediately coming; that they could not undertake to import anything at present, but that they would buy wholesale from the Government depôts to retail among the people. In other places the petty dealers have stated that as there is hardly any more grain to be sold, their occupation is temporarily passing away, and therefore they ask to be allowed to purchase grain from the Government depôts, so that they may thus get a little stock-in-trade whereby they may make a living. Inasmuch as these persons are ordinarily the sole retailers of food to large sections of the people, the importance of immediately supplying them with Government grain is manifest. In many other places an examination by our own officers of the weekly markets has shown such a depletion of stocks as to leave hardly enough for the current supply. In all such cases everywhere the district officers have received the strictest orders to act on the sale rules; and, as I believe, they are so acting, to the great comfort and encouragement of the people. Wherever the depôts have been opened, the public have immediately resorted to them, either as purchasers direct or as dealers to retail to others. At some points near the northern frontier our officers have been half afraid to open the depôts lest there should be a run of Nepaulese purchasers on the stores. I have directed, however, that the depôts must be opened there, even though numbers from Nepaul should flock to buy. Notwithstanding this, however, there is still a considerable field open for private trade and enterprise nearly as large as that indicated in my last Narrative.

"The heading of 'cultivators receiving advances of food-grain' has not largely developed itself as yet; the number hardly exceeds 60,000.* But many experienced persons warn us that distress has crept up to the middle section of the ryot or cultivator class; the lower section is already on the relief works; the middle section will be content with advances of grain, to be repaid hereafter.

"The second point is the completion of the transport of the Government grain and the available resources in respect of carriage. Out of the 346,911 tons to be transported north of the Ganges, only about 6,000 tons now remain. The transport by rail, once a matter of some anxiety, is now concluded. Besides their ordinary traffic, the East Indian Railway carried 320,000 tons of Government grain within the space of six months, and the Eastern Bengal 66,000 tons within the space of five months. In both cases the work has been finished within the time proposed.

"Of the various lines and routes of inland transport, the only one where anything remains to be done is that of Eastern Tirhoot. Out of 154,000 tons to be carried away from the north bank of the Ganges for East Tirhoot, 135,000 tons have been carried, out of which, 77,000 tons have been stored in the depôts and granaries, the remainder being on its way. Of the quantity which is thus on its way, some part is within easy distance of the depôts, while some part has still some distance to traverse. Thus, while other lines are fortunately closed, the East Tirhoot line is in the extreme tension of activity, so that the grain may be all stored before the setting in of the rains. It was unfortunate that on this the most critically important of all the lines there was the largest defection of the locally-hired carriage. Despite the efforts and services of the many contractors on this line (all European gentlemen, indigo planters, and landholders of position and influence), it has been found impossible to produce or to retain anything like the number of carts necessary for the timely performance of the service which we required. When these several contracts were undertaken it was understood that 27,000 carts in all would be brought into the field, and it was certain that nothing short of

* *Note*—This number represents heads of families; the number of persons supported by advances given out during the last fortnight must be about 300,000.

this large force would properly suffice. But no more than 20,500 really appeared at the middle of February, and after a time there was a falling off below even that number; at the end of April there were not more than 16,500; at the present time, the end of May, the number does not exceed 14,000. Thus the transport department was actually short of its complement by 6,500 carts at the beginning, that is, the middle of February; by 10,500 carts at the end of April, and by 14,000 carts at the end of May. These facts are mentioned not at all by way of disparaging the merits and the exertions of the various contractors. Their difficulties were indeed of the ordinary kind, namely, the difficulty of keeping the carts in employ in the midst of much competition with other private employments, the roughness and heaviness of the cross country roads; sickness among the cattle from fatigue in the hottest time of year; scantiness of fodder and water. But these ordinary difficulties which befall all our contracts, more or less, did really beset these particular contracts with more than ordinary severity.

"But it is evident that had we relied on these contracts alone, a large portion (from one-third to one-half) of the grain allotments for the most distressed part of the whole drought-stricken country must have remained uncarried on the north bank of the Ganges. It is unnecessary to describe the fatal consequences that might indeed, perhaps must, have ensued. In fact, however, we were very far from relying on the local contracts alone; we were permitted by the Government of India to arrange strong reserves, consisting—*firstly*, of the railway from the Ganges to Durbhanga; *secondly*, of the means of transport provided in the North-Western Provinces. The Government of India itself undertook the emergent construction of the railway; the obtaining of the carriage from the North-Western Provinces was left to the Government of Bengal. The railway has carried, or will carry, about 40,000 tons of grain, not indeed up to the depôts, but for a considerable distance towards the depôts, thereby saving so much of carting. The reserve carriage from the North-Western Provinces now actually serving in the field consists of—

Carts (3 to 4 bullocks each)	3,350
Pack bullocks	2,900
Pack ponies and mules	7,500
Camels	1,400
TOTAL ...	15,150

Besides these, we have recently hired for supplementary service in East Tirhoot—

	Carts.
From West Tirhoot, on completion of contracts there ...	2,000
From the Sarun District	850
TOTAL ...	2,850

"Lastly, we have arranged with the Monghyr contractor to carry 12,000 tons to East Tirhoot.

"By these various means all the deficiencies above explained are made up for, and there is a good hope that this vitally important operation will be concluded in due time. It may be well to bear these circumstances in mind when statements are sometimes made which, if true, would tend to prove that the organization of so large a reserve of Government carriage was unnecessary. It has been seen, however, that it was absolutely necessary—the necessity having been proved by the event. Instantly on being landed on the north bank of the Ganges every cart with its bullock, every pack bullock, mule, pony, camel, has been marched off on urgent service. The service carriage has been all brought into action immediately on its appearance on the field.

"That portion of the reserve which consists of camels and ponies collected in Northern India from great distances may not unnaturally have attracted some notice, and may perhaps appear at first sight to involve unnecessary labor and trouble. But reflection on the nature of the case will show the expediency, almost the necessity, of so arranging that with so large a number of animals in service, the whole should not be of one kind. Otherwise an epidemic might have simultaneously prostrated most of the animals on any

line of transit; and there have been apprehensions especially of such disease breaking out among the bullocks. At one period such fear much prevailed, and had the symptoms become at all aggravated, we were quite prepared to bring into the field ponies and camels to a number double that which we actually have produced.

"When the main transport work is over, these ponies and mules will be most useful during the rains in distributing supplies among the villages, when all the bullocks of the country are required for agriculture. With this view, I have further ordered all the pack ponies, which are abundant in the Purneah District, to be enrolled and retained for service, if needed.

"The rates of payment arranged with the various contractors were certainly much higher than those of ordinary times; and from this an inference seems to have been drawn that undue liberality was shown by the local authorities in framing the contracts. Such augmentation of rates was, however, to be expected under the stress of an intense demand, when the prices of main agricultural staples were double or even treble the average of ordinary years. In most districts the rates have proved sufficient to ensure success, and doubtless must have yielded profit to the contractors. But then the contractors were planters and landholders, who had to exert all their landed influence, all the goodwill of their connection, to carry out this work; and such forces could not be enlisted in the Government service without allowing liberal rates. Those contractors who have made profits are just those who have done their work well within the time, thereby rendering valuable aid to the Government and to the people. In one main line, however, East Tirhoot, the most important of all, even these rates have proved insufficient, and hardly more than half the required work was effected under their operation. So far from the high rates being too high here, the only question could be as to whether they were high enough.

"In Tirhoot especially the local officers tried for several weeks to work at lower rates and failed to obtain more than a small part of the carriage required. In some districts, where the quantity to be carried was less and absorbed only the spare disposal carriage of the locality, lower rates have been adopted with success. In other districts again, where the amount exceeded the power of such spare carriage, and the agricultural and private carriage came to be indented upon, the lower rates, which at the outset sufficed, became ineffectual, and higher rates had to be offered. In instance after instance have our officers held out to the last against raising the rates, but have been obliged to yield in order to save the business from failure.

"In one only of the several contracts in North-East Tirhoot we found it desirable to allow some special compensation, for the bullocks proved to have died and the carts to have been broken to pieces on the service, and this, too, may be thought at first sight by some to be an unnecessary concession. But it was allowed at a critical time, when some thousands of bullocks had died from a disease since allayed; when there had been heavy damages on a rugged line of country, and when the cartmen were deserting with their carts to an extent which threatened the breaking up of the transport. It was also limited to the particular contract which had suffered, and it was offered on the condition that the carts with bullocks should within a specified date return to the service. The measure immediately stopped the tendency to desert, and had some success in recovering the carts: out of 3,500 carts which had been lost about 1,000 returned. The result shows that the measure was most desirable, and that the terms were not too liberal.

"With the approval of the Government of India, I have arranged that the river steamers and barges coming from England, together with those constructed in Calcutta, and with 800 canoes from Oudh and 4,000 Ganges boats retained locally for service, shall be divided into appropriate detachments, and stationed at the mouths of each of the main affluents of the Ganges—to be a reserve of water carriage for inland navigation, and to carry succour to distressed localities, if necessary, during the rainy season.

"The third point is the consumption of Government grain, and the amount remaining in store. Up to the end of April not more than 20,000 tons of grain were issued from the Government granaries. As these issues are made from a large number of granaries scattered in remote places, it is hard to

speedily obtain a correct return, and I am not yet able to state precisely the amounts issued during the first fortnight of May. I calculate, however, that they can hardly exceed 30,000 tons. Thus we may consider that by the middle of May only 50,000 tons can have been issued out of 390,000 tons provided and allotted, leaving full 340,000 tons in store for consumption after the middle of May. It is evident then that the supplies are adequate for a consumption greater even than that which has been estimated. But though the consumption was (for reasons explained in my last Narrative) much less at first, it will probably become much greater from and after the middle of May. From a statement just received, I learn that in East Tirhoot alone (that is, the two sub-divisions of Durbhanga and Madhobunnee) the sales of Government grain to the public are now amounting to 700 tons a day. In all the distressed districts the persons on relief works and on charitable relief (about two millions in all) would, at the rate of three-quarters of a seer per head per diem, be consuming nearly 1,400 tons a day, and I have reiterated the strictest orders that to all of these the Government grain is to be supplied. I will not at this moment attempt a complete estimate on a subject which the experience of the next few days will elucidate. But there are several considerations already patent to show that large as our stores may be, the demands upon them will be large also.

"The fourth point relates to the system of labor on the relief works, and the progress of charitable relief.

"During the fortnight under review piece-work (or the contract whereby a man is paid at a fixed rate upon the quantity of work he does), or task-work whereby a man is obliged to do a certain amount of work in order to obtain his daily wages, have been enforced throughout the relief works in all districts with but few exceptions, which occur in East Tirhoot, where the laborers are still on daily wages without the exaction of a specified amount of work. Out of the total of 1,450,000 persons on the works, not more than 180,000 are on daily wages, the remainder being on piece-work or task-work.

"That this system fully affords relief to all who are willing to work, and is so far entirely effective and successful, is admitted probably by every one competent to judge. The only doubt which would seem to be felt by some is whether this system is not too liberal; whether its bounty is not abused by some, and whether the general result does not tend towards demoralization—that is, towards rendering the laboring classes disinclined to labor in future. As we are duly anxious to avoid any such result, I will endeavour briefly to explain the position of the case.

"It is unquestionable that the daily wage system, as it prevailed for some short time in many of the relief works, especially in North-East Tirhoot, did directly conduce to demoralization. But this was at the moment unavoidable. A famine panic suddenly set in; crowds in tens of thousands day after day came trooping to the works; they congregated and clung to particular works, and refused to obey the orders to separate off into gangs on small works where order could be introduced. As they all were in severe straits for food, it was at the outset necessary to feed these unmanageable multitudes and to get what work could be got from them, which proved very little, and the effect was for the moment demoralizing. This was in the last week of March. Orders were, however, immediately given for systematically distributing them among better regulated works, and a beginning was soon made. About a fortnight afterwards, that is early in April, an attempt was made to impose a piece-work system on the whole of them. Thus no time was lost in counteracting whatever demoralization may have begun. My Narrative of the 30th April showed that on receiving the orders regarding piece-work, the people left the works under some misapprehension, and remained absent for several days, suffering severe privations. Afterwards, on the promulgation of revised terms of piece-work, they returned to work, many of them in a low and reduced physical condition. They have subsequently accepted piece-work, which virtually compels them to labor. If then these poor people fancied for a time that they could live in idleness on State bounty, they were soon undeceived. Indeed, many of them must during their week of absence have learnt a hard lesson. The penalty, though self-inflicted, through their misunderstanding, must none the less have corrected any

demoralization which might have begun to spring up. I therefore fail to see how the people of North-East Tirhoot can have been ultimately demoralized by the daily wage system which a brief time prevailed.

"Since the preparation of the last Narrative another instance has occurred in the Dinagepore District. Some large gangs of laborers left the works when the terms of their employment were rendered more stringent. On inquiry it was found that they had been saving some part of their daily wages, which savings were hoarded against the rainy season when the works would be closed. It is probable that with these hoarded sums they will ultimately purchase rice from the Government stores. In this case, however, some demoralization might have ensued had it not been promptly stopped. The men had been but a short time on the works when they were discharged.

"There are, as already shown, some considerable numbers still on daily wages, which, however, is being constantly reduced. Most of them are very poor people, for whom it is difficult to provide in any better way; and the wages allowed them—1½ annas a day for a man in Behar, 2 to 2½ annas in eastern districts—are the lowest possible in such a year as this; enough indeed to support life in ordinary years, but now, with the great rise in prices, enough to afford only a meagre and jejune subsistence. Thus no motive is allowed to exist to induce people to do light work on a closely restricted allowance when they might earn a comfortable modicum of food by working harder.

"Similarly with the task-work system the wages are kept low, hardly higher than the daily wages above described; and inasmuch as a day's work is exacted, the result is that these people are working for what is a stinted subsistence relatively to the high prices of the day. No process of demoralization can therefore have developed itself with them.

"For the piece-work the rates now allowed do undoubtedly appear more liberal for the skilled and the industrious, especially in Eastern Tirhoot, where the last rate is from 5 to 6 annas per 100 cubic feet of earthwork. But they were framed in order to suit those large numbers who, originally of a poor physique, had been recently lowered in condition. The pressure, so to speak, had to be regulated according to the weakest part of the beam. Under these rates the people do earn subsistence by giving a day's work, which they could not be made to give under any other plan. As their strength and condition become established, and their practice improves, they can perhaps earn more than a bare subsistence. Being anxious that the State charity should be administered with as much thrift as is safely possible, I have authorized a reduction of the rates to 5 annas per 100 cubic feet, and in some cases to 4½ annas, wherever the relief authorities think that this can be properly attempted. It is hoped that with firmness and patience the reduction may be effected in many places. With this very large class of laborers again there is nothing to bring about demoralization.

"But under any of these piece-work rates—indeed under any rate that would be suitable for the weakly and unskilled—the strong and the skilled will make more than a subsistence. Numbers of persons and families are making more than such subsistence. Some instances are narrated of the profits of individuals from piece-work labor which may be exaggerated, but there are many authenticated instances of laborers, with the help of their wives and children, earning amounts daily either in kind or in cash, which prove a diligence and an energy which would hardly be believed were it not thus demonstrated. The surplus earnings over and above subsistence are all saved up against that dreaded interval of time between the closing of the works (ere the commencement of the rains) and the gathering of the next crop. Such remarkable and praiseworthy conduct is not, I fear, evinced by more than a small number out of the whole.

"Others manage to earn by piece-work in a very few hours enough for daily food, and then spend the rest of the day in working up their parched fields in the hope of showers. With some families again all the members used to work; presently the man learns how to earn single-handed enough for himself and his family, then he naturally leaves his wife and children at home with their domestic duties, and he labors alone on the works. Such classes of instances and others that might be produced are creditable to the people, though probably they do not comprise more than a large minority out

of the total. Still, according to the best information, it appears that in very many cases under the liberal piece-work rules a family does earn from four to five seers a day, on which quantity they can live and save a little besides. It is for this reason that I have authorized the trial of a slightly reduced rate wherever it is deemed safe by the officers on the spot.

"I have considered whether the hardest working persons could not be kept in gangs by themselves on a less liberal rate of piece-work; but all our officers deprecate this, because it is the presence of these persons, and the example of their benefit from diligence, that encourage all the inferior workers to exert themselves.

"Now in all these cases which I have described there is no sign of demoralization—indeed the tendency is in the opposite direction, and the nature of the contract tends to stimulate industry. The instances of high earnings, which most excite remark, and at first sight seem to portend demoralization, are nevertheless the very cases which indicate a salutary moral process, inasmuch as the persons have been awakened and spurred into a state of diligence and forethought which they had perhaps never evinced before; and all other cases of the same kind, though of less degree, afford evidence of the same healthy moral influences.

"Again, whatever the relief laborers save in grain or in cash in the months of April and May, is so much to the good as regards expenditure of Government grain in the months of June, July, and August; for those who save at the present time will not come on our hands hereafter when the works will be closed. Had they not saved in this manner, they would either come on gratuitous relief, or they would obtain advances. But they will do neither of these things if they succeed in saving now. The savings then only constitute a slight forestalling of Government assistance; and this is in a manner calculated to have a beneficial effect morally upon the people, and to cultivate in them some of those qualities in which they are probably deficient.

"Having thus examined briefly each class of cases, I cannot find that any seeds of demoralization are being sown amongst the laboring classes by the relief labor system; and wherever anything like incipient demoralization showed itself, corrective measures have been adopted. I admit, however, that the utmost vigilance is necessary to prevent demoralizing influences being generated; and all those who, as private employers of labor, are justly interested in the matter, may rely on such preventive watchfulness being maintained by all our officers.

"As regards the progress of charitable relief, I believe it may be said that there has been a careful inspection by Government officials, village by village, of all the distressed tracts, in order to search out all persons deserving of this relief, and every such person has been furnished with a certificate entitling him or her to subsistence. If consideration be given to the extent of country, 350 miles in length with a mean breadth of 70 miles, comprising probably 27,750 villages containing 2,096,843 houses, then the nature of the operation, so comprehensive in its proportions, so minute in its details, can be appreciated. It is now understood by all concerned that this portion of the general relief, as it is purely and absolutely charity, will be defrayed from the moneys subscribed by the benevolent public in England, in India, and in other countries, supplemented by an equal amount from the Government of India; also that the relief thus afforded by public charity may be dispensed with a degree of tenderness and generosity which would hardly be justifiable in the dispensation of State aid. Such liberality will be shown—

"*Firstly.*—By extending assistance largely to classes who, though sorely straitened, yet cannot work, such as Brahmins, and other high-caste people, some classes of Mahomedan widows and friendless persons, petty manufacturers, and artisans of fabrics for which the demand is temporarily stopped.

"*Secondly.*—By allowing to persons on this kind of relief various little comforts and accessories.

"I have earnestly impressed on all our officers what I understand to be the wishes and intentions of the benevolent subscribers in these respects.

"The fifth point relates to the prospects of the season. From Bhaugulpore eastwards the prospect is good, good showers having fallen from time to time. But from Bhaugulpore westwards, comprising the greater part of Behar and especially Tirhoot, the prospect up to the 24th of May was unsatisfactory, and was causing anxiety to the people, little or no rain having fallen during the month. This uneasiness aggravated the prevailing distress by inducing those who possessed grain to hold it; in consequence, the food-supply was becoming deficient in the markets, even of localities previously believed to be safe from distress. An undefined dread of some misfortune to the next crops, to be expected in September, is perceptibly influencing and contracting the internal distribution of food-grains throughout the distressed districts, and is thereby intensifying the pressure on the State relief operations. This indirect manifestation of the popular feeling has led us again to consider the adequacy or otherwise of our preparations; and careful calculations show that these preparations are adequate, even to the contingency of a partial failure of the September harvest, in addition to the contingencies previously provided for, the maximum number to receive assistance being assumed at 3½ millions of souls.

"At the present moment of writing, however, timely rain-storms are descending in various parts of Behar, though I have not yet heard of their falling in all or the most distressed localities. Wherever they fall, instantly the drooping hearts of the people revive, and countless ploughs are pushed on into the furrows.

"The sixth point relates to the general working of the relief system. I believe that this system, as now developed in its several ramifications—its relief labor; its charitable relief; its advances to cultivators; its sales to the public—is calculated to meet, does actually meet, all the existing distress, and will continue to meet the distress as it assumes modified shapes, together with the changes of season in all the districts known to be distressed. This general statement, too, is safely made, notwithstanding the occasional accession of distress as in parts of Cooch Behar, Maunbhoom, and Burdwan. The absolutely comprehensive character of the system for all the distressed classes being beyond question, the only question that could be entertained is whether it does not comprehend some classes or some persons not really distressed. Now, it is almost certain that those who receive charitable relief, and those who obtain advances, do really need assistance, as each individual case must have been investigated; also that those who buy from the Government stores really need the purchases they make, especially as sale is never authorized in any locality until the European officer has found on inquiry that food-supply is deficient. The same certainty cannot be declared as regards the relief works, where it is possible that amongst such large numbers some persons not really distressed might gain admission. But such cases are comparatively few, I believe, and so far as I know, every officer employed believes that nearly all the persons on these works need the relief more and more each week as the season advances. Most of those who had any of the slender resources wherewith the poorest classes in all years have to support themselves through the slack months of early summer, exhausted these resources before they came on the works, though some of them still had, or have a little, very little, store treasured up against extremity. If the relief works did not exist, the great majority would have literally nothing to eat; some might have enough for a very few days. None could get any bread-winning employment until the rains begin, and during the interval between the middle of May and the beginning of the rains it is difficult to understand how any of them could preserve themselves from miserable emaciation, or how the majority could escape death. A restrospect of these operations shows that the people were at the outset remarkably slow to avail themselves of the relief works; that in many tracts severe distress first became known, not at all by the people using their opportunities of complaining, but by the investigations of our own officers; that in the less distressed districts, and in the less afflicted parts of the distressed districts, the people do not resort to the relief works, and that all the localities where they have largely resorted to the works have been those localities where a widespread destruction of the crops has occurred."

In addition to the above remarks recorded by Sir Richard Temple, the following specific information, with regard to the various matters noticed in former reports, is added :—

Weather and rainfall.

The latest returns show a general want of rain, except in Bhaugulpore, Rungpore, Dacca, Sylhet, and the districts of the Chittagong Division. In Furreedpore a good fall has been recorded, but it is said to have been partial. Since the date of the returns received by post, telegrams have come in reporting copious rain in the north of Chumparun, and a fall of $\frac{9}{16}$ of an inch at Mozufferpore; 1·12 fell at Maldah, 1·20 at Moorshedabad, and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch at Hooghly. Rain is now urgently wanted in all districts where it has not fallen, though, except in districts where much early rice is sown, it may be delayed for some days longer without materially injuring the prospects of the coming crops. The continued drought has, however, caused the water supply to run short in several districts; and if it were not for the large number of relief laborers available for deepening tanks, considerable suffering would have been felt in many districts from the want of water, and large numbers of cattle would have perished.

State of the crops.

2. At this time of the year the prospects of the crops vary almost from day to day, according to the rainfall, throughout the greater part of Bengal and Behar; while in the eastern districts the state of the rivers must enter as an element into the calculation. From almost every district the latest returns tell the same tale, that rain is urgently wanted; and in some districts, as in Rungpore, while the rainfall has secured the crops for the present in the north and east of the district, those in the west and south, where no rain has fallen, are said to have suffered much and to be in a critical condition.

In Furreedpore, where rain has not fallen, the late rice is said to be likely to suffer from the rapid rise of the river, as it is not sufficiently vigorous to keep its head above the floods as they rise.

The crops of *kaon* and *boro* rice have been harvested, except in Behar, where they are being cut, and are said to have been very good in Dinagepore, Maldah, and Rajshahye.

Seed-grain.

3. Extended inquiry shows that generally the supply of seed-grain, except in certain peculiarly-situated tracts and in a few villages, will be sufficient, and but little aid will be wanted from Government except in the way of loans to those that cannot afford to pay high prices. Of the small Government supply reported as ordered in the last Narrative, 68,911 maunds has been delivered in Calcutta, besides 20,000 maunds which has been received up-country. From all accounts it is believed that this quantity will be found amply sufficient to meet all requirements.

Prices.

4. Prices show a tendency to rise generally, though, on the whole, pretty steady. Throughout the Burdwan Division there has been a slight rise in all districts, except Beerbhoom. In the Presidency Division grain is decidedly dearer in Calcutta and in Jessore, though in the latter district the last weekly returns show symptoms of a fall. In the Rajshahye Division there has been a rise of prices in Rajshahye, Rungpore, and Bogra; they have fallen somewhat in Dinagepore. In Maldah and Pubna a rise in the middle of the fortnight has been followed by a fall to former level at its end. In Julpigoree there has been a sudden rise from 11 seers to 8, which has caused a good deal of distress. Prices remain steady in Mymensing and Backergunge, and have risen considerably in Dacca, Sylhet, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and Hill Tipperah. In Noakhally they are lower; and in Furreedpore common rice remains stationary, while other grains are somewhat higher. Throughout Behar prices have only risen in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and they have fallen somewhat in Patna (except in the case of barley and gram, which have risen from 19 to 18 seers), Sarun, Chumparun, and Monghyr. In the other districts there is but little change. In Chota Nagpore, prices have risen in Maunbhoom and Hazareebaugh, while they have fallen somewhat in Lohardugga. In Orissa, there is no change in Cuttack, but the market has an upward tendency in Balasore. Prices are falling at Pooree.

5. With the exception of the districts mentioned in last Narrative as being dependent chiefly on Government grain, no deficiency of supplies has been reported; and except in Mozufferpore, where the supply has been generally more scanty throughout the previous fortnight, the markets have been generally well supplied We can now confidently say that Government grain is to be had in abundance wherever the supplies furnished by private trade are deficient, and orders have been given to sell in all cases where a deficiency exists.

Supply of grain.

6. The amount of private grain carried into Behar by railway for the fortnight ending the 16th instant shows a considerable decrease as compared with the previous return. The figures are as follow :—

Private trade.

	For fortnight ending 2nd May 1874.	For fortnight ending 16th May 1874.
	Tons.	Tons
From North-Western Provinces and Punjab...	14,488	18,125
From Calcutta and Lower Bengal ...	20,660	2,870

Now that there is but very little more Government grain to be carried, it may confidently be expected that this trade will increase considerably, should prices be sufficient to give a profit to importers.

The total quantity exported from the 1st October to the middle of May was 212,763 tons; and the imports to the same date were 355,024 tons.

Export of food-grains by sea.

7. There is a general complaint of the want of rain in this division, and the continued drought has aggravated the distress and increased the number on relief works; but since the fortnightly reports were received, abundant rain has been reported from Chumparun, and nearly an inch has fallen in Mozufferpore. In parts of Seetamurree and in the south of Durbhanga, where rain had fallen, a considerable breadth of land has been sown; but in the greater part of these sub-divisions, and nearly the whole of Mudhobunee, no sowings had been practicable. Wherever land could be sown, seed has been procurable by those who had money to pay for it, and the general impression seems to be that, except in Ramnuggur, where the Taroos, relying upon Government aid, have recklessly consumed their seed-grain, and in a few villages scattered throughout the country, sufficient seed will be forthcoming, though its price will be high. In Sarun the lands are said to have been prepared for sowings when the rain falls, though but little has been sown as yet.

Patna Division. State of country.

8. The condition of the people remains unchanged; the numbers on relief works have increased, except in Sarun, where there has been a slight decrease, which must be expected to continue till rain falls and field-labor can be again begun. But everywhere the people are said to be in good condition, and to have little anxiety for the future, though, with the exception of private stores held for the most part for the consumption of the owners, there is said to be no rice in the smaller bazaars in South Tirhoot, except what has been imported by Government; other grains are not procurable in any quantity, except in the large towns of Durbhanga and Rowsera, and in Mahomedpore and Warrisnuggur among the smaller marts.

Condition of people.

9. In the head-quarters sub-division of Tirhoot (Mozufferpore) sales of Government grain have been found to be necessary, owing to the deficiency of supplies in the markets; but, judging from the experience of other parts of the country, it is not likely that private trade will leave so accessible and rich a tract of country unprovided, especially as the Gunduck will from this time forward be navigable without difficulty by cargo boats. Imports are already coming up to Chumparun. An outbreak of cholera has been reported in the last weather reports, but the locality is not specified.

North Tirhoot.

10. In the west of Ramnuggur the people are entirely dependent upon Government grain, but throughout the rest of the district private trade, though not sufficiently active to render sales of Government grain altogether unnecessary, is doing a good

Chumparun

deal, and its activity is increasing. The health of the people is good; and though small-pox is prevalent, it is said to be somewhat less so than it usually is at this time of the year.

Sarun.

11. In Sarun trade is as usual very active, and supplies plentiful, though, as was to be expected in a district where the population is over 700 to the square mile, there are very large numbers who can only maintain themselves with difficulty in ordinary seasons, and who would therefore in the present year starve in the midst of plenty if it were not for the aid given by Government works.

South Behar.

12. From South Behar the reports continue satisfactory. Rain was much wanted, and the numbers on relief works had somewhat increased; but on the whole there is little distress in this part of the country, and no scarcity.

Bhaugulpore Division: State of country.

13. In this division distress has been reported from the southern part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, where none was before anticipated; but the arrangements made to meet it were prompt and apparently adequate. Throughout the rest of the division, though increasing pressure had been reported in one pergunnah in Monghyr, and more relief works had been found necessary in the Begooserai Sub-division as no rain had fallen there, yet on the whole there is a decided improvement, especially to the north of the Ganges. There the rainfall has been general, and the Collector of Purneah writes that "the country is now looking very fresh and green; *kauni* (a kind of millet) is ripening, and *moong* looking well. The area sown in *bhadoi* is very large, and the crop is looking well." There has been a slight increase in the number of laborers on relief works in Purneah and Monghyr, and a slight decrease in Bhaugulpore; but on the whole there is but little change.

Rajshahye Division.

14. There has been a great change for the better in the prospects of almost all the districts of this division. Rain has fallen generally in sufficient quantities for sowings, though more was wanted in parts of Moorshedabad, the south of Maldah, and in parts of Rungpore. In Dinagepore, Rajshahye, and in the north of Maldah more land than usual has been sown with *bhadoi* or autumn grains. There has been no difficulty about seed, and the crops promise remarkably well. In the Govindgunge circle of Rungpore some difficulty in procuring seed will probably be felt, but only from the poverty of the people; and arrangements are being made for giving advances to those who are unable to pay the present high prices. Cholera has appeared in Dinagepore, Rajshahye, and parts of Moorshedabad. Though there has been no great distress in any of the districts of this division, except some bad cases in the Molong and Maheegunge circles, which have been sought out and relieved in time, yet the numbers on relief works and in the receipt of charitable relief have apparently increased on the whole, though some of the district returns are imperfect, and the increase cannot be accurately stated. Of those districts in which the returns are complete, the increase is most marked in Rungpore, a district which evidently needs, and has received, great attention. The group organization has been perfected there, and the Relief Commissioner is now encamped in the district, and giving it his special attention. Bogra, which was said in last Narrative to be in a critical state, has certainly improved, and the rainfall has been ample.

Cooch Behar Division.

15. Owing to a sudden outbreak of distress in the north of Julpigoree, the Cooch Behar Division must now be added to the list of distressed divisions. Supplies of grain have been sent into the district from Purneah, which will amount to 50,000 maunds; and 40,000 are being kept in reserve in Kaleegunge ready to be moved up the Teesta in case they should be wanted. The stores of the Northern Bengal Railway will also be available to supply immediate necessities. On the representation of the Commissioner, that further relief works were urgently wanted in the district, sanction has been given for the extension of a portion of the earthwork of the Northern Bengal Railway from Julpigoree towards the foot of the hills. A Minute by Sir Richard Temple on the state of the district and the measures taken to relieve distress is forwarded.

16. The Collector reports that the importation of 5,000 maunds of Government rice has had an immediate effect in lowering prices. He anticipates no further distress, and states that his district must not be reckoned as one of those where distress exists, or is likely to occur.

Mymensing.

17. The reports from this division show little change in the condition of the people, except in Beerbhoom, where there has been a considerable increase in distress, as shown by the increased numbers on relief works and in the receipt of charitable relief. The district organization has, however, proved equal to the emergency, and there will be no difficulty in providing work and food for larger numbers than have hitherto presented themselves. In Burdwan the number of persons in the receipt of charitable relief, 14,169, is large, but not larger than is naturally to be expected in a district where the people have suffered so greatly from fever for some years past. It has been considered desirable to provide Government grain for the considerable numbers in this division now receiving relief in one form or other from the public funds, and supplies are now being sent up for the Hooghly, Burdwan, Bancoora, and Beerbhoom Districts.

Burdwan Division.

18. The reports from this division show a great improvement in the condition of the people. Palamow is now said to be quite safe, owing to the large crops of jungle produce which have been gathered; but the Lieutenant-Governor still entertains some fear that these and the rubbee crop may not prove sufficient for the sustenance of the people. As there are considerable stores of Government rice in the sub-division which will be used in paying laborers, there is no cause for anxiety about this part of the country. In Hazareebaugh relief measures have proved completely successful, and the crops of millet and early rice, which in this district will be reaped in July and August, will, it is hoped, produce sufficient to put an end to all fears of famine in the district. Distress is being relieved by loans of rice to ryots, as well as by the employment of laborers on relief works. From Maunbhoom a great improvement is reported; the large loans of grain given out to ryots have produced a most beneficial effect. There was at one time some fear that it would not be possible to store the whole amount of grain before the rains; but the carriage arrangements are now most satisfactory, and there can be no reasonable doubt that there will be no balance left unstored unless the rains should break unusually early.

Chota Nagpore.

19. Nuddea continues to be the only distressed district in this division, but the reports shows little or no cause for anxiety. With favorable rains, of which there is every prospect, there will be but little distress here.

Presidency Division.

20. Of the balances due from Calcutta to the various districts as shown in last Narrative, the whole had been despatched on the 26th instant, with the exception of 78,366 maunds, which had still to go to Maunbhoom. The last despatch for the Sonthal Pergunnahs left on the 25th, and the last despatch for Tirhoot was made on the 23rd instant. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway for the week beginning Monday, the 25th instant, were 4,000 maunds for Maunbhoom, 500 maunds for Moorshedabad, and 1,000 maunds for the Burdwan Division. By the Eastern Bengal Railway there are 40,000 maunds to go to Kaleegunge *viâ* Goalundo as a reserve for Julpigoree, and 4,000 maunds to Serajgunge by the same route for the Pubna District. The great strain put upon the East Indian Railway has thus been removed, and much carriage will be released for the needs of the upper portion of the line. The unremitting exertions and cordial co-operation of the District Traffic Superintendent at Howrah and his staff have greatly aided in the early completion of this work.

Despatches of grain from Calcutta.

The amount of seed-grain despatched up to the 26th May was as follows:—

	Mds.
To Monghyr ..	6,427
„ Sultangunge ...	38,851
„ Futwa ...	20,773
TOTAL ...	66,051

21. The Lieutenant-Governor has fully noticed this subject in his remarks prefixed to this Narrative. The following is the number on relief works according to the most recent returns in the office. It will be observed that they are defective, as some returns have not been received; and as they are prepared on different, and

Relief works.

with regard to some districts and sub-divisions later, data than those used by His Honor, they necessarily differ somewhat from them.

	Last fortnight's return.	Present return.	
Patna Division	912,074	1,122,828	
Soane Canal Works ...	41,019	not received.	
Gunduck Embankments ...	23,964	ditto.	
Bhaugulpore Division ...	100,092	107,269	
Rajshahye „ ...	209,635	180,064	The return from two circles in Dinagepore not received.
Northern Bengal Railway ...	19,452	18,202	
Burdwan, Presidency, Chota Nagpore and Cooch Behar...	67,165	69,786	Returns from Cooch Behar not received.

From the above it will be seen that the numbers have increased everywhere except in the Rajshahye Division, where the decrease is partly to be accounted for by the absence of returns from two circles—one, that of Doorgapore, where important works are going on, and partly from the fact that many laborers had left the works to cultivate their fields; while many women and children had been taken off the works and put on charitable relief.

22. The returns showing the numbers on piece-work and daily wages, respectively, are still too imperfect to be useful in this Narrative; but they are improving, and I hope, with next Narrative, to be able to submit complete or nearly complete returns.

23. While writing on this subject, I ought not to omit to mention the success attained by Pundit Ajoodya Prashad in making the Tirhootia Brahmins work. He is himself a learned Brahmin of very high caste, and is circle officer of Putrahee in Tirhoot, where Brahmins are particularly numerous. He practically showed them by using the hoe and pickaxe himself that he did not consider this species of labor to be derogatory to his caste; and the result has been that there are now over two hundred of the poorest members of the caste cheerfully working on the relief works and earning an honest livelihood instead of subsisting upon public charity.

Northern Bengal Railway.

There have been 39,594,000 cubic feet of earthwork completed during the fortnight ending the 16th instant on the main line and Rungpore line, equal to 82 miles of four feet bank. The rates fixed for labor are 4 to 5 annas per 100 cubic feet, a rate that ought to be quite sufficient to attract laborers really requiring employment.

24. The following is the return of persons receiving charitable relief in those districts whence returns have been received:—

	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.
Tirhoot	140,814	108,278
Chumparun	9,349	9,019
Sarun	9,700	4,076
Gya	845	822
Shahabad	2,827	2,361
Monghyr	2,001	3,176
Bhaugulpore	1,418*	7,413
Purneah	5,656	1,395
Maldah	6,349	3,382
Dinagepore	19,526†	12,828
Rungpore	20,346‡	8,340
Bogra	4,643	8,199
Moorshedabad	2,154	2,739
Rajshahye	2,474	4,192
Hooghly	2,383	1,925
Bancoora	8,073	6,729
Beerbhoom	5,475	3,600
Burdwan	14,169	13,725
Maunbhoom	5,451	5,776
Palamow	not received.	426
TOTAL ...	263,653	208,401

* Returns imperfect. † Imperfect. ‡ Imperfect.

25. The Lieutenant-Governor has thought it right to have a special inspection made of all golahs where grain is stored, in order that any imperfections in the present buildings or modes of storage may be discovered and rectified before the rains.

No. 19.

Nineteenth Special Narrative of the Drought, from the 29th May to 11th June 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Richard Temple) writes from Monghyr on the 10th June the following account of the Tirhoot District to be included in the present Narrative:—

"During the last fortnight I have visited Tirhoot, traversing the district from its south-eastern to its western border. I have conferred with all the principal European officers in the district, with some of the European non-official residents, and with many of the principal natives. Many relief circles and sub-circles were inspected.

"As Tirhoot is by far the most important of the distressed districts, and has to bear the brunt of the present trouble, some account may appropriately be given of its condition during the first ten days of June.

"As regards the weather and the crops of Tirhoot, the month of May has been against the district. The drought was great—water was only to be reached at double the usual depth below the surface. The supplementary coarse grains sown in February withered in the heat. The wheat crop was in many places indifferent. The fruit of the mango groves, so abundant in this district, failed to yield the usual sustenance to the people. The indigo production is marred by one of the greatest failures known in this generation; and but little was done for ploughing or sowing the rice for next harvest. June therefore opened ominously. But now the preliminary showers have fallen, in some places abundant, in others scanty; in some parts towards the south their coming was so long delayed that a certain proportion of loss at next harvest was thought inevitable. By long-established agricultural practice, the extensive depressions in the surface of the ground ought by the beginning of June to have young rice springing up, but are this year only beginning to be broken up. Countless patches of ground, which ought to be filled with plants of rice ready for transplantation, have this year almost nothing. Thus the want of the April and May showers has caused way to be lost for next harvest, which can hardly be made up in full. The rains, however, seem to be coming; the industry of the peasants is stimulated to the utmost, and the next rice harvest may yet escape any serious diminution.

"On the other hand, the poppy has flourished, and the opium yield will be favorable. The tobacco crop, too, has proved a source of wealth to the southern part of the district.

"Still the losses which have been superadded to the destruction of the last rice crop, combined with an apparent possibility of some deficiency on the next rice harvest, have produced an effect on the grain trade; have caused much timidity among the dealers in advancing grain to the cultivators, or in producing it for sale in the markets, and have rendered private rice an almost unobtainable article. Great as the losses have been, low as the private stocks may have fallen, one cannot believe that the rice markets would have been so empty as we found them to be before we opened sales of Government grain, were it not that the holders of grain apprehend losses yet to happen, and keep whatever they have in view of such eventualities.

"It is to be remembered that in Tirhoot (unlike other districts) there is no early rice, and but a small September rice crop and little Indian-corn. In the eastern and north-eastern parts of the district, where the distress would be worst, there is nothing, save some coarse grains of inconsiderable quantity, to come in till the great rice harvest of December. In other districts fears arising now might happily be dissipated by August, while in Tirhoot they could not be removed till the end of autumn. This consideration enhances the gravity of the situation in Tirhoot.

"As regards the condition of the people of the poorer classes, the improvement in their appearance in full two-thirds of the district is declared by all witnesses to be marked, and the change for the better is the most perceptible in those parts which were in the outset most threatened with distress. Since the middle of March last at least one-quarter, often one-half, sometimes even three-quarters, of the people have been receiving assistance from Government in some shape or other, which assistance has in the majority of cases amounted to maintenance. Hundreds of thousands of persons (literally) who came on relief in March last in a thin and weak state have recovered from the depression; are now in at least an average physical condition, and are as well as they ever would be in ordinary years. It is this perhaps which may have caused a supposition to arise that these poor creatures have been too well cared for. They have been properly fed, that is all. We could not do less than feed them properly, as we undertook to rescue them from what must have ended in starvation.

"Still, however, persons are frequently met with in such a degree of emaciation (such severe distress is sometimes unexpectedly encountered in places previously believed to be beyond the reach of danger) as would prove the peril from which the population at large has escaped, and which would again threaten it if any circumstances were to interrupt or weaken the administration of relief. It is, as I believe, the fact that in many thousands of instances relief was afforded only just in time to save life; and that in many hundreds of villages the relief officers arrived only just in time to prevent mortality. If this be so, then looking to the narrow border which separates preservation from destruction, can we reasonably doubt that there must have been some cases which terminated fatally before the arrival of aid? If the people had been ready to ask for aid, our officers might have had some opportunity of acting in such cases. But, on the contrary, the sufferers were too often disposed to die in silence, and to this day, with all our elaborate organization of relief, there is the danger to be guarded against of destitute individuals remaining unobserved. The metaphor of ships sinking in sight of port is terribly applicable to emaciated persons lying down to die in the very midst of a relief system.

"I have heard much oral evidence of the sickness and mortality, and the sad scenes in consequence, which occurred during 1866 in those parts of Tirhoot where destruction of the rice harvest had occurred. The area of such destruction is known to have been very much larger on the present occasion than in 1866. The prices in Tirhoot of rice—9, 8, even sometimes 7½ seers the rupee during the hot months—were as dear, or dearer than, they were in 1866; and the dearness began in many places at an earlier date than in 1866, and this, too, notwithstanding the fact that the relief operations are on a much larger scale now than in 1866. From this consideration some notion can be formed of the mortality and its attendant miseries which must have prevailed in Tirhoot during the spring and summer of 1874 but for the relief operations, and which would still prevail during the summer and the autumn if those operations were to be relaxed. The sad occurrences, which, as we hope, were limited in 1866 to a comparatively few places in Tirhoot, would in 1874 have happened in many places, and would have increased more and more till they spread over perhaps half of this extensive and populous district.

"I have inquired much as to the number of deaths which may be attributable to starvation. As is well known, the authenticated cases are very few. It seems certain that such clear cases of this sad description as could be embodied in official returns are rare. Even if all the deaths in the numerous field hospitals—which deaths are medically attributed to various causes—were deemed indirectly attributable to want of food, still the number would be statistically inconsiderable. And inasmuch as Tirhoot is fortunate in having a great number of well-informed and independent witnesses scattered all over it who must have stated all they knew, it seems equally certain that no considerable mortality can have occurred in any part of the district. But that the available statistics can show all the deaths from want of food is to my mind incredible. The patience with which, at the first, numbers would pine away without resorting to any authority, and the manner in which individuals

will do so even to this day, convinces me that some must have died of hunger of whom we shall never hear.

"My predecessor's (Sir George Campbell's) view on this matter was expressed in March last to the following effect:—

In times of scarcity and the early stages of famine, it is totally impossible to distinguish deaths accelerated by scarcity and bad food from natural deaths. The Lieutenant-Governor has not the least doubt that among a very poor and helpless population, such as exists in North Tirhoot, many people die when food is dear who would not die, or would not die so soon, if it were cheap. He believes that there have not been deaths from direct starvation among healthy adults; but from what he saw of the people about Bahera, and some of those on the works near Durbhanga, he fears that among such a population a good many old, weakly, and sick people must have succumbed to insufficient nourishment.

"I entirely subscribe to that view. I am as unable as he was to state any number. But I believe that if it could be exactly known, it would be found so extremely small as not to affect appreciably the death-rate among the large population concerned.

"Looking to all the circumstances, however, and to the numbers receiving some sort of relief in Tirhoot (over 1,100,000 on 1st June, besides the numbers receiving aid indirectly as purchasers of Government grain), I hope that some work of humanity will be found to have been accomplished in this district up to that date. But there remains the anxious question whether that work can be successfully sustained during the trying months yet to come?

"In respect to the organization of relief, I found the circles and sub-circles into which the whole country is divided to be in complete working order. And such working order implies that every village, and the majority of houses in every village, are brought under relief inspection; that those who are unable to labor have tickets entitling them to subsistence; that those who are able to labor are employed on digging the village tanks on piece-work, and are paid in rice; that inquiries are going on village by village regarding the cultivators who need advances of grain; that the village grain dealers have a supply for retail of rice obtained from the Government stores; that the jeyt ryot, or head-man of the village, has a supply of rice from the neighbouring granary for the disposal of which he is accountable; that there is a sub-depôt of rice in every sub-circle comprising from ten to fifteen villages, and a depôt for every circle comprising from ten to fifteen sub-circles; that arrangements are being made for regularly conveying rice from the depôts to the villages during the flood season by carriers, by bullocks and ponies, and even by canoes; that in every circle there is a poor-house for the worst cases, and a field hospital with native medical attendants; that every sub-circle has its native officials, and every circle its European officer or its superior native officers.

"In respect to relief laborers, the number returned is 910,657—the largest yet seen in this district. We may indeed hope that this may prove to be the highest point, and that during the month of June the number will decline, as agriculture and other private employments may afford subsistence after the falling of the rains. Great numbers have already gone, and will yet go, off to the fields. But in case any should linger on the relief works while they might be better engaged privately, orders have been issued to discharge all such persons, and to afford every encouragement for the transfer of the laborers from the works to other occupations. The works will, however, be kept open for all who cannot otherwise obtain employment so long as the weather shall permit. It is to be expected that the rains will soon entirely stop tank-digging, and even impede road-making. This, however, is the very season when the men thus thrown out of work will be able to obtain private employ. If any should fail in this, they will be cared for under the circle system just described. At the worst they would come on charitable relief, but any augmentation of this form of relief (already so large) is to be deprecated; and there is the fear that persons discharged from relief works may try to resort to the public bounty. Orders have been issued to guard against this possible abuse. Still, even during the rainy season, there will be intervals of time when people cannot obtain employment either on relief works or in private employ. Some of these may have to be admitted to charitable relief; others will, it is hoped, be able to support themselves by what they saved from their earnings while on the works. It is very probable that large numbers have thus saved enough to

sustain themselves during such intervals, and orders have been issued to prevent those who are thus comparatively independent from claiming further relief. In the dispensing of such liberality as that which has been dispensed, some abuses are practically inevitable; but this is all the greater reason why vigilance should be exercised against all those abuses of the State bounty which can be foreseen. In my last Narrative (25th May) I stated that rates of pay for piece-work which had been appropriate in April were becoming too high under improved circumstances in May and June, and that a reduction would be undertaken. I am glad to find on the spot that this is being carried into effect without difficulty.

"As regards charitable relief in the Tirhoot District, the number of the recipients is now returned as 166,477. Of these, many would even in ordinary years be subsisting on private charity; this year, however, they would be foodless, as the donors being themselves in difficulties cannot give. Many again belong to the better castes, even to the Brahmin caste. Special inquiries are being made to search out village by village all those who are pining in hunger at home, and from pride or fear are deterred from seeking relief. The fear among some castes of being included in the same category with the paupers is such as to lead them on towards extremities. While craving aid, they will ask that they may pay a little, or be debited with part repayment, in order to avoid being classed as recipients of gratuitous relief. In very many places women are set to work with spinning and weaving, cotton being supplied to them for that purpose. The Tirhoot Brahmins constitute a well-known and numerous section of that great caste, and numbers of them are suffering, and will yet suffer more and more, that sort of distress which it appears to be the object of the charitable subscription fund to relieve; distress—borne perhaps with false pride, but still with fortitude—enough to straiten them sorely, but hardly enough to threaten that immediate danger which State charity undertakes to obviate. Orders have been reiterated to treat these cases according to the generous and considerate intentions of the subscribers.

"As regards advances to the ryot cultivators, there has been, and still is, fear lest this class, the most important class of the community, should incur lasting impoverishment from using up, for immediate subsistence, that which they ought to keep, namely, their seed-grain and the little capital of their husbandry—which result, if now allowed to happen, would leave evil traces in the district long after this crisis shall have passed away. The men have got their land, their implements, their cattle, and their own power of labor, but they have not food till next harvest. Ordinarily there are dealers whose business it would be to advance grain for food, but often—perhaps generally—they refuse to do so this year, because the prospect of next crop is not assured. Hence the need of making to the cultivators advances of Government grain repayable hereafter. But as all cultivators are not in need—as many still have small private stores—it is important to make systematic inquiry, village by village, in order to discriminate real from simulated necessity. Such inquiry is being conducted, and it is already seen that the number of really deserving applicants is very considerable. It is better that the advances should be made by the zemindars; and many of the large landlords are doing so. But where the zemindars are petty proprietors (and much of the land in Tirhoot is minutely sub-divided), the advances, if they are to be made at all, must be made by the State. In all these cases, however, the principle is borne in mind (as laid down in the Governor General's letter of the 16th December last) of inducing the zemindar to become security, or to allow the land to be virtually pledged, in addition to such security as the cultivator himself can offer. It is hoped that a large part of the advances will be thus covered by security. Many zemindars have already agreed; more doubtless will yet agree; and I hope to be able to state ultimately that most zemindars, great and small, have done well in this matter. The number of cultivators in Tirhoot under advances of grain for food will be considerable, but it cannot be stated as yet.

"As I have elsewhere stated, it is on the efficiency of the system of advancing grain for food that we must partly rely for preventing the consumption of seed-grain. The ryots still possess some seed; the dealers certainly possess much, though they defer disposing of it to the last safe moment. Assistance is being rendered by making cash advances to cultivators for

purchase of seed-grain; by exchanging Government food-grain for local seed-grain, which latter is afterwards sold to the ryots; by importing Government seed-grain from a distance.

"As regards the sale of Government grain, it has just been stated that there is no private rice in the markets of two-thirds of the Tirhoot District; private stores there must be, but they are not brought forward, and whether they will be, depends on the course of the rainy season. At present the local traders say that they have nothing to sell, and that they will not attempt to import until the rising rivers afford water carriage, land carriage being too expensive; they will not promise to do so even then. The ordinary course of trade is the reverse—namely, that of exportation: they have rarely or never tried importation; the prices down south, whence rice might be obtained, are too high to yield profit to an importer to Tirhoot; they will be glad to buy wholesale from Government, and with that stock to make some profit by retail. One may pass from mart to mart in Tirhoot, and receive from the grain dealers, great and small, this almost stereotyped reply. One may ask the grain merchants at Patna, which is the great *entrepôt* for Tirhoot: they will say that they have not, as a rule, imported, and do not intend to import, rice from the south-east. They do import other grains from the north-west, hundreds of tons daily, and hope to go on importing until the Indian-corn of Behar shall come in next September. This north-west grain they send daily across the Ganges in quantities; they will send more still when the navigation of the rivers becomes easy; the grain will go all over the southern half of Tirhoot as far as Mozufferpore and Durbhanga; whether it will go beyond that to the more distressed parts they cannot say—probably not, it never does go ordinarily.

"Meanwhile the markets in two-thirds of Tirhoot are destitute of rice, the staple food of the people. Therefore sales of Government rice are being opened, under the rules explained in my Narrative of the 11th May, throughout the sub-divisions of Durbhanga, Mudhobunee, Seetamurree, and a part of Mozufferpore, and are very much resorted to by the people. But orders have been reiterated that such sales will be suspended immediately on the arrival of private supplies, and that the trade be informed accordingly. I believe that every trader must by this time know that if he will import grain, the field which the Government is forced to occupy temporarily will be at once vacated for him.

"In the remaining one-third of Tirhoot, the sub-divisions of Tajpore and Hajeepore, and half the sub-division of Mozufferpore, sales of Government grain have not been opened.

"As regards the allotment of Government grain for Tirhoot, 42,00,000 maunds, or 154,411 tons, the question at once arises,—will it bear the depletion to be caused from June to December by all these outgoings; for paying relief laborers in kind; for feeding the recipients of charitable relief; for advances of food-grain to cultivators; for sales to the public? Up to end of May about 6,42,000 maunds, or 23,600 tons,* only have been expended; and this is but a small portion of the whole, and is less than was expected originally. The amount comprises regular issues only as expenditure, and does not include loss or wastage. But then the numbers of persons on relief up to the end of May—

On relief works	910,657
On gratuitous relief	190,914
TOTAL ...	1,101,571

somewhat exceeded the estimate of distress (1,000,000) on which the allotment was made. The cause of the excess over estimate is the aggravation of distress in the tract immediately to the west and north of Mozufferpore. The above numbers will, we hope, decrease during June; but that will be more than counterbalanced by the development of advances to cultivators and sales to the public. All the local officers believe that the expenditure of grain will be very great during June: their estimates show an expected consumption of 11,47,000 maunds (42,095 tons) in the Tirhoot District during this month. The progress of the grain expenditure will be watched till the beginning of July, when the allotment will be reconsidered. Under any circumstances, there

* This is approximate, I am not able to state the exact figure.

will be enough for some time to come. If there should be any prospect of deficiency in the autumn, additional supplies can be brought in by water carriage.

"In regard to all the circumstances of Tirhoot, it has been determined to despatch to that district before the heavy rains set in 6½ lakhs of maunds of rice additional, 4½ from the reserve at Calcutta, and 2 from supplies that could be spared from neighbouring places, equal to about 24,000 tons. The total allotment for this district, originally about 154,000 tons, will therefore now be 178,000 tons."

Sir Richard Temple writes from Monghyr on the 11th June the following general remarks to be included in this Narrative in continuation of his special remarks regarding the Tirhoot District:—

"During the fortnight the rains have been abundant in the eastern half of the distressed districts, and sufficient, though long delayed, in the western half. The River Koosee, running into the Ganges north of Bhaugulpore, may be taken as the approximate boundary: to the east of the river, the agricultural prospect is very good; to the west, not so good. The improvement in the weather has infused energy into husbandry, and has somewhat raised the local grain markets from the condition into which they were falling, without, however, essentially lowering the general range of prices.

"I am not able to state precisely the amount of Government grain expended up to the 1st June, nor to correct properly the figures given in my Narrative of the 25th May. It is difficult to get a timely return from so many granaries scattered in remote localities; but it will probably be found that up to the middle of May the quantity expended was less than that estimated (50,000 tons). The best return that can at this date be made up shows 57,000 tons expended up to the last week in May (though not up to the last day of May). This figure cannot be put forward as absolutely correct, but it is the best that can be given at this time of writing.

"During the last days of May, however, the expenditure from most depôts increased rapidly; the payment of relief laborers in kind had taken effect; the sales of grain had been largely opened; the cultivators had been receiving the grain advances authorized after inquiry. These causes continued to augment the expenditure during the first days of June, and will, as the local officers believe, still continue during this month. Estimates have been obtained from these officers of the expenditure from the last week of May to the end of June. I have had the advantage of discussing with them on the spot some of the most important of these estimates. The result of these estimates is that up to the 1st July 156,462 tons in all are expected to be expended. The statement means expenditure, and does not at all include wastage or other losses. This figure must not be regarded as more than an estimate. If the actual expenditure shall prove less, then the fact is so far to the good as regards our preparations. If it shall be as much or more, then it will put our preparations to the test. For, even after the 1st of July, there are, for the most important of the distressed districts five months of distress yet to come, beginning with July and ending with November.

"As is well known, in most parts of Bengal and Behar new crops will come in during September, affording relief in some of the distressed districts. There are many distressed localities indeed where relief may be hoped for earlier than September; and this may naturally convey the idea that the general distress will in the main be over in September. Such is not the case, however, as regards North-Eastern Tirhoot—by far the most important area of distress—and some other parts of Chumparun and North Bhaugulpore. No substantial improvement can happen there till the end of November or beginning of December. If therefore 156,000 tons shall prove to have been actually expended, the balance of supplies will not be more than what we ought to have for safety.

"In my Narrative of the 25th of May, the number of persons receiving assistance in some shape or other from Government or from the charitable public was estimated to be upwards of 2,500,000, which number was expected to increase daily. A more precise calculation on the 18th May had given the number at 2,224,965 persons.

"The present Narrative shows 1,737,768 persons on relief works and 307,505 persons on charitable relief, or 2,045,273 persons in these two categories alone. But, as shown in the last Narrative, there are two other categories of persons who receive assistance—namely, those who purchase and those who obtain advances of Government grain. On the 18th of May these were estimated to comprise 820,000 persons.* By the 1st of June they would comprise very much more. And this consideration would bring the total from the 2,045,273 for the first two categories to nearly three millions for the whole four categories during the first week in June. I will not, however, attempt an exact figure in a matter where exactness is unattainable. When large quantities of grain are sold wholesale to be retailed, it is impossible to say precisely how many persons will receive assistance from such sales.

"Still the matter is one that has to be examined every fortnight by the light of the best calculations which we can make. And during the first week of June, if we could know the average daily expenditure of grain, we might arrive at a calculation of the number of persons receiving assistance. Such assistance is now, with but few exceptions, afforded in grain. Now, out of the 156,000 tons above estimated up to end of June, 99,000 tons were estimated for the last week of May, and for the whole month of June, say 38 days. This, at ¾ seer per head per diem, would give 3,889,526 persons receiving assistance daily, which number is above the number, 3,500,000, estimated by me in March last. The present estimate of 3,889,526 persons would include all the four categories and all persons of every sort receiving assistance. It is not indeed free from doubts, especially in regard to this, that many of those who purchase in June may be laying in some supplies for June. If this be so, then the calculation may prove to be somewhat too high.

"We shall soon have the means of correcting these calculations, but now that the elements of sale and advance enter into the computation, we shall hardly advance beyond a calculation, and shall not be able to present an absolute statement of fact. Meanwhile, so far as is known at this time of writing, the number of persons receiving assistance appears to be as high as the highest for which provision was made in March last—namely, 3,500,000. It has never been expected or affirmed that all who receive assistance would be absolutely maintained by Government. But as the provision had to be made on an estimate of the numbers likely to require it, it was necessary to reckon those who would buy, or would obtain advances of grain, just as much as those who would receive in kind either wages or subsistence.

"Looking to the supplies of Government grain now *in situ*, or in reserve, I am still hopeful that there is enough for such emergencies and requirements as may be reasonably anticipated at present. But I have not met any responsible officer of any grade who thinks that we have more than enough.

"The expenditure of so large a quantity of Government grain must be accompanied by a system of special accounts conducted by selected officers, and for this arrangements have been already made.

"Regarding private trade, I have said that the dealers in the interior of Tirhoot will not import grain until the rainy season causes the rivers to rise, and that they are anxious to take Government grain and retail that. In South Behar, on the banks of the Ganges, and in the Sarun District generally, there is much private trade in grain; even in the Tirhoot bazaars there is still some barley, coarse millet, pulse, and a little wheat. But the supply on a market day is speedily exhausted, and there is no hope that private stocks will be replenished from outside until the rivers rise towards the middle of July. The source from which private trade draws its supplies is chiefly Northern India; there are many indications from Serajgunge, Pubna, Goalundo, Julpigooree, and even Dacca, that Bengal Proper has at present very little surplus rice to send into Behar. Happily the surplus of other grains in the Punjab and North-Western Provinces appears to be great, and on an average 800 tons a day are received thence by rail at Patna.

* See paragraph 8 of Minute dated 18th May—

III	529,252
IV	291,260
TOTAL ...	820,512

"The prices current reported for the 6th June show that by that date some of the markets of Behar and Northern and Eastern Bengal had felt the effects of the favorable rain of the previous week. Prices have cheapened materially during the fortnight in Rungpore, Pubna, Julpigoree, and Mymensing; in Central and Western Bengal prices are as dear as they were a fortnight ago. In seven out of the ten districts of Behar the price of common rice is now appreciably cheaper than it was a fortnight ago. In the other three districts of Behar prices are unchanged.

"Instructions have been reiterated to the local officers in all the distressed districts to suspend the sales of Government grain wherever sufficient supplies are brought in by trade, and to inform all traders accordingly.

"At the present time there is beginning a transition from one stage of our operations to another. If the rains shall happily continue, the relief laborers will gradually leave the works and go to the fields. Every co-operation is afforded by the relief officers by contracting or closing the works wherever and whenever agriculture or other private employment affords remunerative occupation. The expedience of avoiding economic disturbance by restoring the people as soon as possible to their normal condition is quite understood. Vigilance will be exercised to prevent those relief laborers who have saved from their earnings during the hot months enough to support themselves during the rainy months from coming on charitable relief, or receiving other assistance. But when that which has been heretofore the hardest part, namely, the management of relief works, shall have diminished the supplying of the empty markets with rice until trade brings up supplies, or the next crops come in, the advancing of food to the cultivators, until they can reap the fruits of their industry, will come into greater prominence. Perhaps also the administration of charitable relief will expand. But whatever be the phase, whatever the proportions of the affair, I am sure that the officers of all grades in all branches of the administration will evince an unabated spirit of devotion to the humane cause in which they are engaged."

Weather and rainfall.

The reports from all quarters on this subject have been most satisfactory and encouraging, and with the exception of parts of Monghyr,* Burdwan, Midnapore, Balasore, Pooree, and the Madhobunee Sub-division in Tirhoot, the latest returns show an ample fall of rain sufficient for all requirements, and no excessive fall has yet been reported.

State of crops.

2. The reports as to the prospects of the coming crops are generally excellent, and except in those parts mentioned above where insufficient rain has fallen, a more than average harvest is expected. In the few places where no rain had fallen up to the latest dates to which returns had been received, there is no cause for alarm, as there is still ample time for sowing.

Prices.

3. Prices have remained generally steady, and on the whole seem to be rather inclined to fall than to rise, especially in the distressed districts, where there has been an almost general fall. In Burdwan, Hooghly, and Howrah, in the Burdwan Division, a slight rise is reported. In the other three districts there has been no change. In the central districts, prices have risen in Calcutta, the 24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, and Jessore, and a fall is reported in Rajshahye, Rungpore, Bogra, and Pubna. In the eastern districts, there has been a slight rise in Backergunge, Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, and Tipperah, and a somewhat greater rise (from 15 seers to 14) in Noakhally. In Furreedpore, Mymensing, and Sylhet there has been a fall. Throughout the whole of Behar and Chota Nagpore prices are easier, except in Monghyr, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and Maunbhoom, where they are stationary. In Orissa, there has been a slight rise in Cuttack, prices remaining as before in the other districts of the division.

Seed-grain.

4. It has been stated in previous Narratives that seed-grain for the next crop would, for the most part, so far as Government or its officers could foresee, be forthcoming from the stores of grain-lenders, landholders, and cultivators. Some of the ryots would, it was supposed, have insufficient means to purchase seed, and advances of

* NOTE.—Reports have since been received of rain in Monghyr.

money were made to them for this purpose. At the same time there were apprehensions that in parts of Madhobunee, Durbhanga, Ramnuggur, and Soopole there might be lack of seed-grain. Further experience has confirmed these views; the ryots have produced or obtained seed-grain sufficient to sow an unusually large breadth of early (September) rice, and every one seems confident that seed will also be forthcoming for the late (December) rice crop everywhere, save in a few particularly destitute tracts of North Behar. For these tracts the Government has bought—

15,000 maunds of seed-grain from Julpigoree.
68,000 „ „ „ Central and Eastern Bengal.
12,000 „ „ „ certain tracts in South Behar where last season's crop was good.

The Julpigoree seed was sent to Soopole in North Bhaugulpore. At first there was little demand for it, but during the last fortnight since the rain fell the ryots have become anxious to take it at the rate of 15 seers per rupee.

The remainder of the seed has been distributed—

30,000 maunds to Madhobunee.
30,000 „ to Eastern Durbhanga and Mudheypore.
20,000 „ to Ramnuggur.

The last consignments of seed-grain left Calcutta on the 27th May, and it is all now on its way to the depôts whence it is to be distributed.

5. The quantity of seed-grain bought by Government for distribution is thus small in reference to the large area of distressed country; but looking to the comparative smallness of the areas where occasional lack of seed was expected, the Lieutenant-Governor deemed it unnecessary to lay in a larger supply. No arrangements were made to supply seed-grain to Dinagepore or the rest of the Rajshahye Division, as those tracts were believed to possess sufficient supplies of their own. During the tour he has just taken in North Behar Sir Richard Temple learnt that landholders and cultivators were themselves in some cases fetching seed-grain from a great distance, and that in Tirhoot, at any rate, no general complaint had been heard that seed-grain would be wanting over any considerable area.

Private trade in Behar.

6. The usual note on the movement of food-grains is forwarded. The returns of grain imported to Behar show an increase in the upward traffic from Howrah of 2,829 tons, and a decrease of 3,476 tons in the downward traffic from the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, as compared with the returns of the preceding fortnight; but, as shown in Sir Richard Temple's remarks, the decrease is probably only temporary, and we may expect to see shortly, if not an increase, at least a return to the former level of imports.

North Tirhoot.

7. The rain that has fallen in the last few days has greatly improved the prospects of the worst part of this district, though in Madhobunee there is said to be a great deal of land which has still to be ploughed. In Seetamurree the prospects of the crops are very good, and they have greatly improved in Durbhanga. Sales of grain to the public are necessarily almost universal, as private trade seems to have done little or nothing for this part of the country, and supplies were short everywhere, except in Seetamurree, where they seem to have been fairly abundant. In Durbhanga and Madhobunee almost the only stocks of grain, except those in the Government golahs, are small stores held by private persons for their own consumption.

8. The condition of the people, to judge by the results of an inspection by Dr. MacDonnell of a considerable number of persons in the receipt of charitable relief in Durbhanga, as compared with the statement quoted in the Seventeenth Narrative as showing the condition of laborers on relief-works at the end of April, has materially improved; but in order to estimate the great advance shown by the results given in the later returns, it must be recollected that they represent the state of the most distressed section of the population, while Dr. Birch's observations were made on those actually laboring, though at that time the separation between able-bodied and weakly recipients of relief had not

been so carefully made as has been done since. The following figures show the results of the two inspections :—

		Dr MacDonnell.	Dr. Birch.
Normal condition	..	55·5	49·
Under-fed	...	23·4	27·
Emaciated	...	17·8	12·

The Additional Commissioner (Mr. Metcalfe) considers that Dr. MacDonnell has adopted too high a standard, and that, as compared with the usual state of the Tirhoot peasantry, the results ought to be even more favorable than those given above; and he is probably right, as the low average physique of the lower classes in Tirhoot has been noticed in the annual jail reports, and remarked on by independent observers.

South Tirhoot.

9. The prospects of this district have materially improved; land is being prepared, and crops sown everywhere. In Hajeepore distress had increased considerably before the rainfall, and it had been found necessary to institute relief circles and increase the number of relief works; and though no severe suffering had been experienced, yet numbers of those newly arrived on the works looked thin and pinched, owing to an insufficient diet. In the head-quarters sub-division sales of grain to the public have been found to be necessary in the east, owing to the insufficient supplies in the bazaars. The western tracts and Tajpore and Hajeepore have received sufficient supplies from the Patna trade, about 1,00,000 maunds (nearly 4,000 tons) being imported weekly into the district.

Chumparun.

10. The condition of the people continues much as before, while future prospects continue to be most hopeful. Private trade is very active in the Gobindgunge and Dhaka sub-divisions, to which grain is conveyed by the Gunduck, and it has consequently been found possible to restrict the sale of Government grain within very narrow limits, only a little over 2,200 maunds having been sold to the public and to laborers up to date. In the rest of the district supplies have been shorter, and sales have been found to be necessary.

Sarun.

11. This district continues to be well supplied with food, but the laborers increase on the relief works. The causes of the great demand for labor have been explained in previous Narratives, and need not be repeated here. Rain has fallen everywhere since the date of the Collector's narrative, and now that cultivation has seriously begun, a diminution in the crowds on the relief works may be looked for. An attempt was made to draft a number of men from the district works to the Soane Canal, where they would be able to obtain higher pay at piece-work rates than they could get on the district works; but though a considerable number consented to go at first, yet they afterwards refused, having taken into their heads the idea that the alleged demand for laborers for the Soane Canal was merely a pretext for getting them out of the district, and then shipping them off to the Mauritius.

South Behar.

12. The rainfall in the three districts of the Patna Division south of the Ganges has been sufficient for ploughing, but sowings have not yet begun. These districts are always later than those to the north of the river, and sowings are not usually made before the middle of June, so that the prospects are still very good. The bazaars continue to be well supplied with grain, chiefly through importations from the North-Western Provinces. These average 1,50,000 maunds a week in the Patna District, and the Shahabad returns also show an active trade.

Bhaugulpore Division.
Tracts south of the Ganges.

13. In this part of this division prospects continue to improve, and the rainfall, which has been general except at Buktiarpore* in the Monghyr District, is said to have been sufficient to give every prospect of a most favorable sowing season. Distress is confined almost entirely to the southern part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, Buktiarpore, and a small tract near Sheikpoora, also in Monghyr. Relief measures appear everywhere to be adequate, and there is no anxiety felt by the authorities or the people. Private trade is said to be reviving in Monghyr.

* Rain is since said to have fallen at Buktiarpore.

Tracts north of the Ganges.

14. Rain has also been plentiful in these parts, especially in Purneah. The sowings of the autumn crop have been completed, and those of the late rice crop are in progress. Prospects are everywhere most favorable. During the period covered by the Collector of Purneah's narrative there was a sudden outbreak of dacoities and grain robberies near Kissengunge, a place well known for the turbulent character of its inhabitants, and a panic, accompanied with riots, arose among the people owing to sudden rise of prices resulting from the cessation of imports from Julpigoree, in which district distress had appeared. The panic was allayed by sales from the Government golahs, and the offenders against the law have been arrested and punished. In no case did it appear that crimes were committed under the pressure of want, as all those arrested were hale, hearty men in good condition.

Private trade has generally been active, except in Soopool, but sales of Government grain have been found to be necessary in Purneah as well as in Soopool. In the latter tract there is said to be little or no grain except that in the Government golahs, and the sales there have consequently been very large.

Rajshahye Division.

15. The prospects in all the districts of this division are excellent, and up to the present time the promise of the coming year's crops is everything that could be wished. Still pressure is being felt in some districts, especially in Dinagepore and Rungpore. In the former district private trade is doing very little, and the people are almost entirely dependent for present supplies on the Government golahs. In Rungpore trade is active along the Teesta and Durlah, but in the west and north no fresh supplies are being imported. In both districts large sales of Government rice have been found necessary, and must in all probability be continued. The health of the people is generally good, and cholera, where it previously appeared, had abated.

Cooch Behar Division.
Julpigoree.

16. The district narratives of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Julpigoree show an improvement in the district. The Commissioner has satisfied himself that the relief works and organization will be quite sufficient to cope with any distress that is likely to arise. The only part of the district about which he now feels any anxiety is South Boda, where the people already seem to have suffered somewhat, and to have nearly come to the end of their resources; but arrangements have been made for advancing grain freely to the cultivators, and relief works are being increased. The prospects of the coming crop are excellent, and it is now calculated that only 50,000 maunds of Government grain will be wanted for the district instead of 1,00,000 as was at first calculated. A panic, arising from the distress in the adjoining parts of the district, led to grain riots and robberies in Mynagooree, where no distress has been experienced, and where none is expected to occur. The panic was taken advantage of by the bad characters of the country, who are somewhat notorious for their turbulence, and it was not till a small detachment of 50 men was brought down from Buxa to Mynagooree that confidence and order were fully restored.

Burdwan Division.

17. More rain is reported as being wanted throughout the division, especially in Jehanabad, Burdwan, and in the west of the Midnapore District. On the whole, rain seems to have been more partial throughout the Midnapore and Burdwan Districts than in other parts of the country, and all present anxiety about the coming crops had not therefore disappeared. Cholera is prevalent in Burdwan, Midnapore, and Bancoora.

Nuddea.

18. There is nothing to report about this district, except that distress does not appear to be increasing, and that the prospects of the coming crop are good.

Chota Nagpore Division.

19. The reports from this division are improving. In no district is the condition of the people at all critical, except in Maunbhoom. There liberal advances of grain have done much to relieve distress, and what remains is amply provided for by the relief works which have been opened. Cholera has somewhat abated, and the prospects of the coming crop are good. In Palamow the Commissioner

confidently expects that in another month there will be an end of distress in that part of the country, and measures are being taken to remove the laborers from relief works to their ordinary agricultural work, where their help is much wanted.

Transport of grain.

20. The transport of grain has now almost actually ceased, except in so far as is necessary to keep the minor golahs stocked from the larger store-houses. The only districts where large quantities of grain have been received during the fortnight have been Tirhoot, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and Maunbhoom. In the firstnamed district Major deKantzow has kept up his very large average to the last, and nearly 30,000 maunds (somewhat over 1,000 tons) of grain, exclusive of engineering tools, fodder, treasure, and Government stores, have been daily sent off on carts from Bunkur Ghât. The transport is expected to be completed, and the golahs fully stocked, by the 15th June. In Maunbhoom considerable difficulty has been experienced—first from the cholera, and afterwards from the floods in the Damooda, as boats could scarcely be procured; but Captain Grant has successfully overcome all hindrances, and expects to complete the carriage of the whole allotment within the next few days.

Relief works.

21. The numbers of laborers on relief works, according to the latest returns available, as compared with previous returns is given below:—

	Last previous return.	Present.
Patna Division	1,112,828	1,231,496
Soane Canal	41,019	34,850
Gunduck Embankments	23,964	45,247
Bhaugulpore Division	107,269	109,417
Rajshahye Division	180,064	194,131
Northern Bengal Railway	18,202	22,129
Burdwan and Chota Nagpore	69,786	96,950
Cooch Behar	no previous return.	3,548
TOTAL ...	1,553,032	1,737,768

There has been an increase in almost all districts, except Chumparun, Purneah, and Rajshahye. In the two former districts the decrease has been considerable; from 44,122 to 38,952 in Purneah, and from 146,285 to 129,034 in Chumparun. In the Rajshahye Division, though there is an increase in the numbers as compared with those reported in the last Narrative, yet it is probable that this increase is more apparent than real, as the returns for the fortnight are much more complete than those previously submitted. The present returns certainly show a considerable decrease from the total, 209,635, reported in the Seventeenth Narrative.

22. On the whole, the tendency is undoubtedly to a decrease in the number of relief laborers in those districts where there has been an abundant rainfall; and as the accounts of the last few days show that there are now very few places where enough rain has not fallen, it may be fairly hoped that each succeeding Narrative will show a decrease in the numbers on relief works. Strict orders have been issued that laborers are not to be kept on relief works where field labor is available; and advances of grain are being everywhere made to ryots to enable them to feed their laborers wherever food grains are scarce.

23. In July and the early part of August, in the interval between the sowing and planting of the winter crops and the reaping of the autumn crop, a considerable number of laborers will probably return to the relief works in Behar; but in the Rajshahye Division, where the early rice harvest is much earlier than in Behar, we have good ground for trusting that if the prospects of the early rice crop continue to be as good as they are at present, distress will begin to decrease by the end of July or the beginning of August. All accounts agree in stating that the areas sown with early rice and autumn crops are much greater than in ordinary years; and as the districts, as a rule, export rice in large quantities, and as the proportions of the autumn crop vary in ordinary years from one-eighth of the whole food area in Dinagepore and Moorshedabad to about one-fourth in other districts, the yield of this crop ought to furnish an addition to the food supply, sufficient to maintain a considerable percentage of the population till the main rice crop is reaped.

24. The annexed statement shows the numbers employed in each district on relief works, with details of those working under Public Works and circle officers, as far as they can be gathered from the returns received. Also, details of the numbers employed on task or piecework and on daily wages are entered for those districts whence the information has been received; but the returns, it will be noticed, are still imperfect, and by no means represent accurately the real state of things, especially in the Rajshahye Division, whence returns are almost wholly wanting, though it is known that piecework has been introduced and generally enforced throughout Rungpore and Dinagepore, the two districts where the largest numbers of laborers are employed. In Bogra it is applied to the able-bodied men, but not to the women and children, of whom there are very large numbers on the works.

Divisions.	Names of Districts.	Laborers under Public Works Department	Laborers under Circle officers.	Total Laborers.	Task or piece-work	Daily wages
Patna	Tirhoot (North)*	207,200	467,284	674,493	577,387	142,366
	Tirhoot (South)*	4,530	186,384	190,914	details incomplete	
	Chumparun	129,034	.....	129,034	.....	no details.
	Sarun	203,695	2,763	206,458	details not given.	
	Patna	17,453	...	17,453	17,453	....
	Gya	...	2,861	2,861	873	1,988
	Shahabad	9,578	705	10,283	9,014	1,269
	Total	571,499	659,997	1,231,496	604,727	145,613
	Gunduck Embankment	45,227	.....	45,247	45,247	....
	Soane Canal	34,850	.....	34,850	34,850	.....
	Total	80,097	.....	80,097	80,097	..
	Total for Patna Division	651,596	659,997	1,311,593	684,824	145,613
Bhaugulpore	Monghyr	5,458	6,747	12,205	no details.	....
	Bhaugulpore	22,759	5,693	28,452	27,362	1,090
	Purneah	14,209	24,753	38,962	29,924	2,148
	Sonthal Pergunnahs	4,454	25,354	29,808	...	.....
	Total	46,880	62,547	109,417	57,286	3,238
Rajshahye	Maldah	2,402	4,363	6,765	no details.	...
	Dinagepore	not given.	82,415	82,415	details imperfect.	....
	Rungpore	ditto.	56,791	56,791	no details.	.....
	Bogra	88,451	4,733	43,184	ditto.	.....
	Moorshedabad	4,142	.....	4,142	4,142	.....
	Rajshahye	834	...	834	no details.	.....
	Total	45,829	148,302	194,131	4,142	....
	Northern Bengal Railway	22,129	...	22,129	22,129	.....
Chota Nagpore	Maunbhoom	14,258	...	14,258	13,392	866
	Palamow	24,000	.....	24,000	.....	24,000
	Hazareebaugh	16,302	...	16,302	1,500	14,802
	Total	54,560	.....	54,560	14,892	39,668
Burdwan	Hooghly	4,887	.....	4,887	...	.....
	Beerbhoom	10,374	.....	10,374	9,774	600
	Bankoorah	3,188	...	3,188	.....	.....
	Burdwan	14,178	.....	14,178	14,178	.....
	Howrah	396	.....	396	.....	.....
	Midnapore	9,367	...	9,367	....	.....
	Total	42,390	...	42,390	23,952	600
Cooch Behar	Julpigoree	3,548	....	3,548	no details.	

* These figures differ from those given in Sir Richard Temple's remarks, the latter being based on later returns than those which have reached this office.

25. Of the laborers employed under district officers and engineers, about three-fourths have been working upon roads and as these are more wanted in Bengal than in other parts of India, the improvement in the communications, resulting from the large amount of labor expended, will, there is every reason to hope, add greatly to the resources of the country; while the tanks that have been dug and repaired and the improvements effected to the irrigation channels and village roads by the remaining labor will provide against a want of water, which was becoming a subject of complaint in many parts, and increase the fertility of the soil and the comfort of the people.

Upper Gunduck embankment, and high level canal in Chumparun.

26. Out of the whole 69 miles of embankment, 61 have been finished, 19 miles having been completed during the fortnight; so that the work has probably ceased by this time, and the engineers will be able to concentrate all their energies on the high level canal. On this work the centre line has been marked out up to the 68th mile, and 1,283,000 cubic feet of earthwork have been excavated. Considerable

numbers have left the work since the rainfall, and the demand for labor is said to have abated.

Soane Canal.

27. The works are progressing, but labor is reported to be decreasing in Arrah, owing to the rainfall; while in the Buxar Division the soil is said to have become so hard from the long drought, that the more weakly laborers could not excavate it, and have consequently left the canal for other works.

Northern Bengal Railway.

28. The total amount of earthwork done on the railway up to date amounts to 47,773,700 cubic feet, equal to 100 miles of 4-foot bank, and 78 miles of feeder roads have been constructed.

29. The following statement shows the numbers in the receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns:—

Divisions.	Names of Districts.	Number of centres	This fortnight.	Last fortnight
Patna	Tirhoot	279	157,477	140,814
	Chumparun	59	11,997	9,314
	Sarun	65	12,364	9,700
	Patna	none.	none.	none.
	Gya	12	420	845
	Shahabad	15	410	2,001
	Total ...	430	182,668	162,673
Bhaugulpore ...	Monghyr	13	2,251	2,001
	Bhaugulpore	14	12,783	1,418
	Purneah	87	5,045	5,656
	Sonthal Pergunnahs	... ...	100	.....
	Total ...	114	20,179	9,075
Rajshahye ...	Maldah	32	8,977	6,349
	Dinagepore	342	19,112	19,526
	Rungpore	26	21,580	20,346
	Bogra	30	3,031	4,043
	Moorshedabad	24	2,217	2,154
	Rajshahye	19	11,142*	2,474
	Total ...	... ...	66,059	55,492
Chota Nagpore ...	Maunbhoom	... ...	8,569	5,454
Burdwan	Hooghly	... ...	3,884	2,383
	Beerbhoom	... ...	9,803†	5,475
	Bankoora	... ...	9,047	8,073
	Burdwan	... ...	14,551	14,169
	Midnapore	... ...	1,314‡	no previous return.
	Total ...	... ...	38,599	30,100
	Grand Total ...	... ...	307,505	257,340

* Of these, 6,101 employed in spinning and weaving and light roadwork.
† " 1,693 ditto ditto ditto.
‡ " 850 ditto ditto ditto.

These returns show an increase in the recipients of charitable relief in all districts except Gya, Shahabad, Purneah, Dinagepore, Bogra, and Maunbhoom; but in most districts the increase is not more than might naturally be expected. In Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye the great increase is more apparent than real. In the former district the returns for the last fortnight were very imperfect, and a truer line of comparison would be the returns for the previous fortnight, which showed a total of 7,413 persons receiving relief. In Rajshahye, a considerable number is shown as receiving charity who ought more properly to be entered as laborers on relief works.

Emigration.

30. The return printed shows that a total number of 3,026 emigrants have been sent up to date to Burmah. Out of these only 957 came directly from the distressed districts, and not one single emigrant from Tirhoot has been yet registered.

No. 20.

Twentieth Special Narrative of the Drought from the 12th to the 25th June 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Richard Temple) has written from Goalundo on the 23rd June the following remarks for inclusion in the present Narrative :—

"During the past fortnight I have passed down the Ganges and part of the Brahmapootra and its branches, from Monghyr to Dacca, visiting parts of the districts on either bank of the river, and conferring with the local authorities and with the principal natives. The remarks which I shall now offer apply not at all to Behar, but to the generally distressed or partly distressed districts of North-Eastern Bengal, namely, Cooch Behar, Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, Maldah, Rajshahye, and Pubna.

"In the spring frequent showers enabled the husbandmen in many places (though not everywhere) to sow the early (*boro*) rice to a larger extent than usual, advantage being taken, with skill and promptitude, of every patch of ground that could be turned to this purpose—such as beds of those tanks and of those rivers which had been deprived of their water by the drought. Occasional rainstorms brought forward to maturity the produce of these little green fields in the midst of the arid, drought-stricken country just at the time of sorest need, when the circumstances of May caused stocks to fall, prices to rise, and employment to cease. The incoming of this early harvest, though not enough to alter the general situation, did yet suffice to afford relief and mitigation.

"Then the rains, commencing seasonably and propitiously at the end of May, have continued through June abundantly, but not violently—filling the rivers, soaking the soil in the uplands, where the autumn rice crop (*aous*) is springing up, and flooding the hollows, where the winter crop (*amun*) has just been sown, and affording the required moisture for the lowlands, where the sowings have yet to be made. The sowings for the autumn rice are believed to have been extensive beyond the average: the crop is now so strong and high above the ground as to be considered almost secure. The sowings for the winter rice are understood to have already been considerable, and to be progressing well. For the most part there has been no want of seed. In some places some such want has manifested, or may yet manifest, itself. It is remedied partially, if not completely, by the arrangements which the local officers are able to make.

"Thus far then the agricultural prospect is favorable.

"The rivers are rising, the summer navigation of these natural highways is opening fast: these are the arteries and the veins of this system of inland communication. It is therefore possible for trade to throw in supplies from distant districts; but this is not being done as yet to any considerable extent. The southerly and the easterly breezes, which are the trade winds in this section of the great river at this season, have been blowing propitiously for many days past. Some fleets of the Dacca boats—always distinguishable by their tall masts and white swelling sails—are to be seen, laden sometimes, but not always, with rice from Naraingunge (the *entrepôt* of South-Eastern Bengal), and bound for the distressed districts. But the quantities thus brought are as yet small compared to the needs of the North-Eastern markets. Some supplies may reach the riverside districts, as Maldah, Rajshahye, Pubna, Bogra, and parts of Rungpore; but no succour worth reckoning has as yet come to Dinagepore, which has the broadest area of distress in all North-Eastern Bengal, and few persons seem now to believe in its coming. The Dinagepore marts usually supply all their own neighbourhood, and export largely to Rajshahye and Pubna. This year they cannot meet their home demands, much less supply any one else. The inland riverside "bunders," or quays for the collection of rice to be sent away by boats, so numerous in the interior of this district and usually so full and busy, have this year been empty and deserted. Again, the east tract of Dinagepore, having good crops, exported rice to the neighbouring tract of Rungpore, which was in distress, to such an extent that it became itself distressed in its turn.

"Then the markets of Rajshahye and Pubna, even in ordinary years, expect to receive a part of the Dinagepore supplies. This year they depended still more on such importation, as the supplies from the local harvests, though in good part saved, were yet short and scanty, but have received, and will receive,

next to nothing. In the Rajshahye District prices have gone on rising until on a very recent date they were as dear as in the most distressed districts. In the south part of the Pubna District the upward tendency of prices has been stopped, and indeed reversed, to the relief of the people. This fortunate result arose, however, not so much from importation as from the belief in the safety of the *aous* crop, and the consequent production of old stocks. In the north part of the Pubna District, around Serajgunge (the well-known place where the collection of country boats forms a sort of floating city), the market had for months been trusting to supplies from the Mymensing District, across the Brahmapootra. These suddenly ceasing, together with failure of supplies from the Dinagepore direction and gradual depletion of local stocks, caused a panic, which was checked only by importation of Government grain. Scarcity, however, still prevails in most of the northern parts of Rajshahye and the north-eastern part of Pubna.

"In the Cooch Behar Division (including the Julpigooree District, the Cooch Behar State, and part of the Bhootan Dooars) there was but slight failure of crop (chiefly in a locality to the south of Julpigoree itself), but grain was exported briskly to parts of Purneah and Dinagepore. Then in the Julpigoree District there arose panic in the grain markets: how far from depletion of stocks, how far from combination among dealers to hold their stocks, it is hard to say, but probably from both causes. The trouble, which at one time threatened to become serious, was checked by relief measures and by the importation of Government grain.

"The Rungpore and Bogra Districts obtained much of their food supply for many weeks from Mymensing, across the Brahmapootra. In the beginning the Mymensing crop was expected partly to fail. Had it not been saved, there is no doubt that the troubles in Rungpore and Bogra would have begun much earlier, and proved worse than they actually have. The west part of Rungpore also benefited by the trouble which has been just mentioned as befalling the east part of Dinagepore. The frequent occurrence of panics in the grain marts of Rungpore, and the equally frequent demand for Government aid, prove the precarious position in which the trade has been standing for several months past.

"In Mymensing again the north-west corner brought temporary trouble on itself from helping others. In that particular quarter the markets became empty. There was money enough in the hands of the people, but no food grain for it to purchase. Hence arose the strange circumstance of Government grain being landed on that margin of the river highway whence surplus grain had recently been exported to districts within sight across the water.

"Further down the river, in the Dacca District, though the crops were fairly good, there were very high prices of rice (8 to 10 seers for the rupee) for some time, and many complaints of distress among the people, owing doubtless to the grain going to meet demands elsewhere. Within the last few days the price has become cheaper—12 to 13 seers for the rupee. It is worthy of note that the Dacca District is held by the local authorities to be secure from general distress caused by drought, because large areas of rice land which ordinarily suffer from floods yield fully in years of scanty rainfall; yet even in this district it has for some weeks past been necessary to distribute charitable relief at the chief centres of population.

"These circumstances may be not devoid of interest as showing the interdependence of these several districts, in consequence of which any extensive trouble befalling any considerable part ramifies ultimately over the whole, and causes divers complications and mischances to occur suddenly, and to tax our vigilance to the utmost.

"Under all the circumstances as above set forth of agriculture and of trade in the particular districts above adverted to, there arise the questions,—Will there be private supplies of grain forthcoming to sustain the people till the end of August? and if not, are there enough Government supplies for this purpose? and whether the *aous* crop, if successfully gathered, will sustain the people from September till December, when the main rice crop is to be expected? Many, perhaps most, experienced persons think that there is not now time enough remaining for trade to do the needful; that there are certainly not stocks in any quantity, and that if there be any part unexhausted, there is no

certainty that the dealers will bring it forward upon merely the assured prospect of the *aous*. It is rather thought that they will perhaps wait until the position of the winter crop can be better foreseen. Again some of the best authorities apprehend that the *aous* crop may not wholly suffice (in the absence of all other stocks) for the sustenance of the people from September until the incoming of the *amun* crop in December; and that distress, after subsiding in September and October, might spring up again from the end of October till December. In vain it is argued will the winter harvest be displaying all its promise of abundance if there be actually not grain enough on the spot for the teeming population. Some assistance may perhaps be looked for from the *aous* crop of other places. It is indeed always to be remembered that generally this crop is kept for intermediate subsistence until the winter crop comes in, and is seldom exported; and this rule will probably obtain to the full this year, when rice is so scarce everywhere. Still its promise seems to be so good in the eastern tract, in the country of the Brahmapootra and the Megna, that some considerable part may be available for exportation during August and September, while the rivers are still full.

"The original allotments of rice for the four districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Maldah, are stated below:—

	Mds.
Dinagepore	12,00,000
Rungpore	3,00,000
Bogra	2,40,000
Maldah	1,50,000
Rajshahye	1,00,000
Railway Works	1,00,000
TOTAL	20,90,000
	= 76,849 tons.

"Out of this allotment the expenditure has been—

	Actual expenditure up to some day from the 2nd to 10th June.	Estimates up to the end of June
	Mds.	Mds.
Dinagepore	1,88,235	3,00,000
Maldah	24,000	41,000
Bogra	30,000	45,000
Rungpore	94,359	1,32,000
Rajshahye and Railway Works ...	8,000	20,000
TOTAL	3,44,594	5,38,000
		= 19,779 tons.

"Under the circumstances, it has been decided to transfer 60,000 maunds, equal to 2,205 tons, from Dinagepore to the neighbouring district of Purneah, where the distress had increased faster than was expected, and which had to send part of its grain on to Cooch Behar. Also 50,000 maunds, equal to 1,838 tons, have been transferred from Maldah to Sonthalia and Moorshedabad. Perhaps, too, some portion of the Bogra allotment may be spared. But with these exceptions, the belief of the responsible officers on the spot is that the Government grain available in these districts will be absolutely needed.

"Inasmuch as the estimated consumption shown above does not allow for loss and wastage, there must be some abatement made from the quantity estimated to be remaining after the 1st of August. With allowance made for this, however, there will still be, as we hope, considerable stores for the needs of the distressed tracts. And if any misfortune not now foreseen should occur, these stores would suffice to meet even a severe accession of distress until fresh supplies could be brought in by river.

"The numbers of boats of various build and capacity, according to the peculiarities of the navigation of each stream or river, are known to be ample for any operation which we might have to undertake. These craft are now to be seen everywhere, either plying on the channels which daily become broader and deeper, or moored in crowds at every creek that is sheltered from the gales that blow over the expansive rivers.

"As regards the condition of the people, I believe that there has been occasionally some sharp distress in Rungpore; perhaps also some (though in a less degree) in Bogra, which happened notwithstanding our preventive efforts. But in Dinagepore I believe that dangerous distress has never been permitted to rear its head. Large sections of the people must doubtless have been straitened or gradually drawn towards the verge of distress; but help (as I believe) nearly always came in time, even before emaciation could begin. But none who witnessed the many broad patches of country where the rice crop had perished, who reflected on the consequences of such a failure to a dense population almost exclusively agricultural, with almost nothing save this one product to depend upon, and who noted the impossibility of succour being afforded by trade at that time of year, when the river navigation was closed to this landlocked district, and when prices in the south were too high to yield a profit to the importer, can reasonably doubt regarding the disease and death which must have ensued had the Government refrained from acting. Maldah was from the beginning never brought near to danger. In juxtaposition with its partly distressed tracts were tracts fertilized by the Ganges and yielding a rich crop of wheat and barley. Its situation offered the utmost facilities for importation from Central and Southern Bengal, of which advantage the trade availed itself. In the hottest season also the mango fruit afforded much sustenance.

"The wages given to relief laborers in these districts (2 to 3 annas a day) are higher than those allowed in Behar, only because the ordinary rate of wages is higher in these eastern districts. Generally taskwork has been successfully exacted and demoralization prevented, with some notable exceptions however. The rates for piecework (4 annas for 100 cubic feet of earthwork) have been lower than those which had to be allowed in Tirhoot. Here also the laborers are believed to have saved something from their earnings at piecework by working with commendable industry. They would in the early hours of the day do their outwork in their fields, from which they could obtain no present gain; then come on to the relief works before noon, and work to the very end of a summer's eve in order to earn a good wage. The works consisted more of roads and less of tanks than in Behar. The roads are represented to be so far good as to improve the internal communication of the district; the bridging must, however, remain for future years. As the rains fall the relief laborers will, we hope, go off to their fields or to private employment; and instructions have been reiterated to the local officers to expedite this change. This will be facilitated by the advances of Government grain to the cultivators which are being made; still there may be many who cannot sustain themselves, and thus the lists of recipients of charitable relief may swell.

"The sale of Government grain to the public, as might be expected under the circumstances described in this Narrative, has recently been, and probably will continue to be, very considerable. In Dinagepore and Rungpore and Bogra the measure has not been extended beyond the limits mentioned in my narrative of the 14th May. In Maldah it has been adopted, but very slightly. In parts of Pubna it was adopted to stay the panic. In parts of Rajshahye I have recently ordered it not only at the request of the people, but on the recommendation of the grain-dealers themselves. In these districts one may travel from town to town and ask the grain-dealers why, with such high prices (9 to 11 seers the rupee) at home, they do not import from the south. They will say that the principal mart whence they could import is Naraingunge, and that the prices there (12 seers the rupee) preclude profit. Boats worked by the owners may bring some consignments obtained direct from the producers. Some traders may make ventures individually, but native merchants will not import largely to the north until prices at Naraingunge shall become as cheap as 15 or 16 seers the rupee. Now Naraingunge is the principal mart in East Bengal for rice among several other things. Here is collected much of the surplus rice from the east bank of the Brahmapootra*, from the basin of the Megna (Sylhet, Dacca, Tipperah), and from the deltaic district of Backergunge. Proceeding to Naraingunge, I find that rice has become cheaper, but is quoted as dear as 12 to 13 seers to the rupee. The native merchants think that the

* Called locally the Pudda.

price may become slightly cheaper, but they would not admit the hope of its becoming as cheap as 16 seers to the rupee until August, and they evidently are not at all confident that, however good the September crop may prove, rice can be much cheaper until the next winter crop is gathered. The scarcity of rice, which has been felt for so many months throughout most parts of Bengal, must cause a demand everywhere, with a corresponding effect upon prices at Naraingunge as well as at other southern marts; and this must militate against grain being sent northwards.

"Looking to all this, I cannot doubt the expediency of selling Government grain in the eastern districts north of the Ganges whenever the measure is asked for, reiterating always the instruction that such sales are to be suspended if trade should bring in supplies."

1. *Weather and Rainfall.*—The reports continue to be very satisfactory. Rain continues to fall seasonably in almost all districts; only in Hooghly, Howrah, and part of Jessore is more rain said to be wanted.

2. *State of Crops.*—The prospects of the coming crops could hardly be better. In almost every district, with very few exceptions, a more than average crop is expected, and in every district there has now been ample rain for sowings.

3. *Prices.*—Prices still remain fairly steady, and the tendency to fall, remarked on in last Narrative, still continues in Behar and the more distressed districts of North-Eastern Bengal. In the western districts there has been a fall in Burdwan and Hooghly, and a rise in Beerbhoom, Midnapore, and Howrah. In the central districts there has been a rise in Jessore and Maldah, and a slightly upward tendency is shown in Moorshedabad. There has been a fall in Rungpore, Bogra, and Pubna. Throughout the eastern districts prices are generally somewhat higher. They have risen considerably in Dacca and Furreedpore, and slightly in Sylhet and Chittagong. The other districts show no change except Noakhally, where prices have fallen to the level at which they stood the fortnight before last. In Behar rice and barley have fallen in Tirhoot, and barley (an important article of food in Behar) has fallen in Patna, Shahabad, and Chumparun; only in Monghyr have prices risen. In Chota Nagpore there is no change to record except in Hazareebaugh, where prices are somewhat lower. In Pooree there has been a considerable rise, from 27·9 to 23·10 for common rice.

4. *Private Trade to Behar.*—The usual note on food grains is forwarded. Though the total upward traffic shows a decrease from the figures given last fortnight, yet the decrease is solely in the Government grain sent up, and there is really a slight increase of 56 tons in upward private trade, and a considerable increase of 2,779 tons in the downward traffic.

5. *North Tirhoot.*—The reports continue satisfactory. Sowing is being carried on in every part of the district, and seed grain, about which there were some fears, has turned out to be generally plentiful—so much so, that it was selling in Mudhoobunnee at Rs. 2 the maund. The general health of the population is exceedingly good, and their condition very much improved. The Seetamurree and Poopree Sub-Divisions have been inspected during the fortnight by Drs. MacDonell and Coates. The former found in Poopree from 90 to 82 per cent. of the people on relief works up to the normal condition, which is exceedingly satisfactory, as the standard adopted by Dr. MacDonell, as remarked in the last Narrative, is a high one. Dr. Coates found the people in Seetamurree generally in very good condition, even in the most remote villages.

6. Rice (except Government rice) continues very scarce in the bazaars, but importations of the coarser grains are reported to be increasing. Advances are now being given largely to the ryots for the support of themselves and their dependent laborers during the coming cultivating season.

7. *South Tirhoot.*—The prospects of the coming crop are excellent, and sowings are going on extensively; but though importations by private persons have increased, yet stocks still continue to be abnormally low, and sales of Government rice are necessarily continued.

8. *Chumparun.*—Indigo prospects are said to have improved, owing to the recent rain, and there is consequently an increased demand for laborers for weeding the fields. The prospects of the other crops are excellent, and the

condition of the people improved. In Ramnugger Dr. Coates, in his inspection tour, found a large number of the people anæmic and out of condition; but as the place is noted for its unhealthiness, it is probable that a similar inspection in a year of the greatest plenty would produce similar results. More seed grain has been forthcoming than was at one time thought likely to exist in the district.

9. *Sarun.*—In this district the *cheena* crop has turned out particularly well, especially in Bussuntpore and Mushrukh, the worst tracts in the district. Indigo prospects are greatly improved, and the *bhadoi* crop promises to be remarkably good. Some laborers have been at last induced to engage to go to the Soane Canal, and it is hoped that others will follow.

10. *South Behar.*—The prospects of these three districts continue to be very good; only the rainfall was too early for the superstitions of the people, as many refrained from sowing when the first rain fell owing to the idea that the influence of the Mirgeshra Nakshattar*, through which the moon, according to Hindoo astronomers, was then passing, was unpropitious. Some, however, disregarded the omen and sowed, though at least a large minority hesitated. Fortunately for the latter the rain continued, and they did not lose the opportunity of getting their crop into the ground. Private trade in Patná continues to be very active; the imports for the fortnight being 3,88,512 maunds against 3,62,246 imported in that preceding it.

11. *Bhaugulpore Division.*—The condition of the people continues good, and there is but little distress anywhere except in Bahadoorgunge in Purneah and parts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The prospects of the coming crops are excellent. The Collector of Bhaugulpore says that "the *bhadoi* is simply magnificent;" and the Collector of Monghyr goes so far as to state that all fear of distress will be over at the end of July, as soon as the jenera (millet) crop ripens. If the rains continue, the harvest throughout the division will probably be above the average.

12. *Rajshahye Division.*—In this division there has been a very great and general improvement, except in Rajshahye and parts of Pubna, where somewhat severe distress has been felt. The distress in the former district arose chiefly from a deficient supply of food grains, owing to the falling off in importations, and sanction has been given for the sale of Government rice in those places where the deficiency was serious. The prospects for the coming season could not be better.

13. *Cooch Behar and Julpigoree.*—The report of the Deputy Commissioner shows that no further distress is apprehended in this district, and that, with some few exceptions, the people are now well off and looking forward to reaping a more than average crop.

14. *Burdwan Division.*—There is little or no change to report in the condition of the people, and the prospects are good, though not so unusually good as in other parts of the country. Cholera is decreasing.

15. *Nuddea.*—There is no change in this district.

16. *Chota Nagpore.*—The reports still continue to show an improvement in the state of the people, and distress may now be said to be almost entirely confined to parts of Maunbhoom and Hazareebaugh; the promise of the crops is so good that hopes are entertained of an early return to a normal state of prosperity.

17. *Transport of Grain.*—With the exception of small quantities of grain going to the districts of the Burdwan Division and of the extra lakh of maunds ordered to be sent for South Tirhoot, the transport of Government grain by the railway has almost entirely ceased. The State Railway to Durbhanga, having been only laid down as a fair-weather line, cannot continue to carry grain during the rains; and hence the three lakhs still remaining to complete the Mudhoobunnee allotment will have to go by water. Arrangements are being made for the purpose. Mr. Metcalfe reports from Durbhanga that he anticipates no difficulty in making adequate transport arrangements for the movement of grain from the larger to the subsidiary golahs during the rains,

* This is one of the 27 mansions of the moon into which the Hindoo lunar year is divided.

as all the golahs are situated on the banks of rivers or connected with river-side stations by good roads, involving no great length of land carriage.

18. *Relief Works.*—The number of laborers on relief works according to the latest returns available, as compared with the numbers given in the last fortnightly Narrative, are as follows:—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Patna Division	1,231,496	1,368,087
Gunduck Embankment	45,247	27,574
Soane Canal	34,850	31,945
Bhaugulpore Division	109,617	88,448
Rajshahye Division	194,131	155,466
Northern Bengal Railway	22,129	22,622
Burdwan and Chota Nagpore	96,950	72,849
Cooch Behar ..	3,548	3,741
TOTAL ...	1,737,768	1,770,732

These returns show an increase on those given in previous returns of 32,964; but an analysis of the numbers employed in each district shows that the increase has been chiefly in North Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun Districts. The Collector of Sarun remarks that we must not expect the numbers on relief works to fall off largely immediately after a fall of rain sufficient for sowing, as "beyond the ploughing and sowing which are done by the ryots themselves and their families, there can be no general demand for field labor till the transplanting of the *dhan* and the weeding operations are taken in hand." In this district it is proposed to close relief works from the 1st July, when the demand for agricultural labor becomes brisk, and to reduce the rate of wages where works are maintained to the lowest subsistence allowance. In Chumparun the numbers have not increased largely anywhere, except in the Gobindgunge Sub-Division, where they have more than doubled; but in the Ramnugger Sub-Division, where the numbers have been hitherto very large and the distress greatest, there has been a very large decrease from 31,573 to 11,919.

In South Tirhoot there has been a decrease, and also in Shahabad and on the Gunduck embankment and Soane works; but in Patna and Gya there has been a slight increase in the numbers of laborers, though in the former district the numbers had fallen at the close of the fortnight.

In the Bhaugulpore Division there has been a decrease in the numbers on the whole, though the Bhaugulpore District and the Sonthal Pergunnahs show a slight increase. In the Rajshahye Division all the districts show a decrease except Moorshedabad and Rajshahye. In the former district the increase is small, and in the latter, though apparently large, it is really insignificant, as the persons engaged in light labor, who were last fortnight entered as receiving charitable relief, have now been entered as laborers according to the practice followed in other districts.

In the Burdwan Division the returns are not complete, but there has been a slight decrease in Hooghly and a slight increase in Bankoora and Beerbhoom; while in the Burdwan District the increase is more considerable. In Chota Nagpore there has been a slight increase in Maunbhoom, and no satisfactory returns have been received from Palamow and Hazareebaugh; but the figures given probably rather overstate the numbers on relief works. The Commissioner remarks that the numbers are at least half what they were in the previous fortnight, and the last crop report says that the relief works in Palamow are almost deserted.

19. It is frequently remarked in the district narratives that the laborers work part of the day in their fields and part on the relief works, and consequently the numbers of men on these works must not be considered as so many men taken from the ordinary number of agricultural laborers. The universal report as to the excellence of the crops and the breadth of land sown prove that nowhere have relief works prevented the carrying on of the ordinary agricultural operations of the season.

20. The following return shows the numbers employed in each district, with details, as far as they are available, of those employed on piecework and daily wages :—

Divisions.	Names of Districts.	Laborers under Public Works Department.	Laborers under Circle officers.	Total Laborers.	Task or piece-work.	Daily wages.
Patna	Tirhoot (North)	149,487	639,021	788,508	675,682	112,826
	Tirhoot (South)	.....	180,559	180,559	26,604	153,955
	Chumparun	139,197	.....	139,197	.....	no details.
	Sarun	229,885	.....	229,885	.....	no details.
	Patna	17,661	.....	17,661	17,661	.....
	Gya	.....	3,534	3,534	2,289	1,245
	Shahabad	7,746	997	8,743	8,186	557
	Total ...	543,976	824,111	1,368,087	730,422	268,583
	Gunduck Embankment...	27,574	.....	27,574	27,574	27,574
	Soane Canal	31,945	.....	31,945	31,945	.....
	Total .	59,519	.....	59,519	59,519	.....
	Total for Patna Div.	603,495	824,111	1,427,606	789,941	268,583
Bhaugulpore ..	Monghyr	2,997	.....	2,997	Taskwork general, but details imperfect.	
	Bhaugulpore	22,266	13,028	35,294	35,251	43
	Purneah	13,562	4,127*	17,689	16,991	698
	Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	3,315	29,153	32,468	20,367	Details imperfect.
	Total ...	42,140	46,308	88,448	72,609	741
Rajshahye ...	Maldah	2,573	3,915	6,488	no details.	.....
	Dinagepore ...	2,559	71,717	74,276	28,167	41,446 details imperfect.
	Rungpore	713	34,120	34,833	15,156	11,816
	Bogra	27,020	.....	27,020	no details.	no details.
	Moorshedabad .	4,991	.....	4,991	ditto.	.....
	Rajshaye	1,247	6,611	7,858	ditto.	.....
	Total ...	39,103	116,363	155,466	43,323	53,262
	Northern Bengal Railway	22,622	.....	22,622	17,994	.....
Chota Nagpore ...	Maunbhoom	15,063	3,272	18,335	14,292	4,101
	Palamow	.....	12,000	12,000	.....	12,000
	Hazareebaugh	9,000	.....	9,000	.....	9,000
	Total ...	24,063	15,272	39,335	14,292	26,101
Burdwan ...	Hooghly	1,877	1,301	3,178	1,877	details imperfect.
	Beerbhoom	10,484	.....	10,484	9,884	600
	Bankoora	3,824	.....	3,824	.....	no details.
	Burdwan	8,735	7,293	16,028	1,497	9,531 details imperfect.
	Howrah	no returns.				
	Midnapore	ditto.				
	Total ...	24,920	8,594	33,514	13,258	10,131
Cooch Behar ...	Julpigoree	3,741	.....	3,741	no details.	
	Grand Total ...	760,084	1,010,648	1,770,732	951,417	358,818

* These figures are doubtful. Inquiry is being made.

21. *Gunduck Embankment.*—The embankment work has been nearly completed, and it has been raised above high-flood level throughout the entire length, so that there is little but dressing to be done. Two miles of the high-level canal have been completed, and work has been started from the 1st to the 8th, the 24th to 29th, and 46th to 48th miles; seven miles of temporary road have been made, and the Sarun Canal begun.

22. *Soane Canal.*—Work is progressing favorably, but the number of laborers has decreased, owing to the completion of the anicut works in Patna and the rain in Arrah. About 29 lakhs of cubic feet of earthwork have been excavated during the fortnight in the main western canal in the Karumnassa Division.

23. *Northern Bengal Railway.*—The total amount of earthwork up to date is 57,058,000 cubic feet, equal to 109 miles of four-feet bank, of which

9,284,300 have been thrown up during the fortnight. This is the largest return yet sent in, and besides this 89 miles of feeder roads have been completed.

24. The following statement shows the numbers in receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns:—

Divisions.	Name of Districts.	Number of centres.	Number on Charitable Relief. This fortnight.	Number on Charitable Relief. Last fortnight.
Patna	Tirhoot (North)	572	162,294	157,477
	Tirhoot (South)	67	13,647	12,926
	Chumparun	50	15,664	11,997
	Sarun	16	7,122	13,304
	Patna	none	none.	none.
	Gya	12	1,070	420
	Shahabad	15	846	410
	Total	722	200,643	195,594
Bhagulpore	Monghyr	13	1,099	2,251
	Bhaugulpore	15	39,740	12,783
	Purneah	91	2,944	5,045
	Sonthal Pergunnahs	.....	.....	100
	Total	119	43,774	20,179
Rajshahye	Maldah	32	9,562	8,077
	Dinagepore	464	22,490	19,112
	Rungpore	33	32,650	21,580
	Bogra	30	13,705	9,091
	Moorshedabad	24	5,916	2,217
	Rajshahye	19	7,009	14,142
	Pubna	.....	10,966	.....
	Total	602	102,208	68,059
Chota Nagpore	Maunbhoom	.....	10,490	8,559
Burdwan	Hooghly	.....	4,043	3,884
	Beerbhoom	.....	10,913	9,803
	Bankoora	.....	14,416	8,047
	Burdwan	.....	15,382	14,551
	Midnapore	.....	not received	1,314
	Total	.....	44,784	38,599
	Grand Total	1,443	401,962	329,000

These returns show a considerable increase over those of the last fortnight in almost every district, except Sarun, Monghyr, Purneah, and Rajshahye. In the last district the decrease is more nominal than real, as those doing light labor on roads have this fortnight been entered among the laborers on relief works instead of among the recipients of charitable relief, as was the case in the former return. The great increase in Bhaugulpore seems, from the Collector's report, to have been caused by a too indiscriminate grant of village relief tickets; but the lists are being carefully scrutinized, and the numbers will probably be considerably reduced. In Purneah the figures are not free from doubt, and their accuracy will be inquired into. Inquiry is being made as to the large numbers returned for Pubna.

25. We can hardly flatter ourselves that we have yet reached the greatest numbers of persons to be relieved under this heading, for doubtless as relief works become deserted, owing to the demand for field labor, there will be considerable numbers of old men and women and young children who now earn a scanty subsistence from doing nominal work on relief works, who will be driven to accept charity owing to their incapacity for gaining a living by labor paid at its market value, and these persons must continue to draw sustenance from the charitable funds till the incoming harvest enables their relatives to give them the same assistance as heretofore.

No. 21.

Twenty-first Special Narrative of the Drought from the 26th June to the 9th July 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Richard Temple) writes from Monghyr on the 7th July the following remarks regarding the district of Tirhoot to be included in the present Narrative:—

"During the fortnight I have visited Durbhanga, spending several days there, during which a conference was held with the principal relief officers of

every part of the Tirhoot District. I also met some of the residents, European and Native. The following account of the condition and prospects of this the most important district in the distressed country is collated from the evidence thus gathered together.

"As stated in my narrative of the 10th June, the month of June began very unfavorably for Tirhoot, and the general outlook was threatening. But before the first week of that month was ended showers began to fall copiously, and by the end of the second week a change in the aspect of affairs commenced, which change became complete as the rain continued with increasing force to the end of the month.

"The first days of June in two-thirds of Tirhoot were distinguished by a heated dust-laden atmosphere; by scanty ploughing and sowing; by anxiety for seed; by navigable streams reduced to lowest ebb; by empty tanks and dried-up wells, to the distress of men and the detriment of cattle; by grain markets becoming tighter and tighter, prices hardening, and private stores locked up; by an intense demand for Government grain, both for wholesale and retail, as if all were anxious to lay in supplies at once for some time beforehand; by private trade stagnant and traders holding out no promise of importation; by laboring and agricultural classes coming in greater numbers than ever to relief works; by the lists of gratuitous and charitable relief much swollen; by the public health good, all troubles notwithstanding; by ryots and cultivators clamorous for advances of food grain; by a large proportion—in some places one-half, in other places three-fourths—of the population receiving assistance from Government in some shape, or from charitable subscriptions, physically in good condition from extraneous aid, but morally depressed and fearful for the future; by relief establishments everywhere strained to the utmost to meet the demands upon them; by transport operations consisting of the final struggle towards the attainment of a long deferred object; by doubts as to whether even the largest allotments of Government grain would carry the people through the months that must be passed before the winter harvest.

"The last ten days of June were, on the contrary, distinguished by rain; by masses of cloud promising further downpour, even to excess; by saturated soil; by extensive ploughing and sowing of every crop of the season, and general sufficiency of seed; by tanks and wells filling fast, to the refreshment of man and beast; by grain markets still tight, but with an inclination to become easier, no stores indeed produced by traders, but landholders and private persons evidently bringing their hoards into use; by a demand for Government grain diminished and limited more according to the needs of the present moment; by traders collecting their boats and promising importation as soon as the rising streams should afford the necessary means; by laborers and husbandmen all gone from the relief works to the busy fields, leaving only some of the women and children on the works; by the lists of gratuitous and charitable relief still swollen, and the public health still good (these being the only points of likeness between the beginning and end of the month); by ryots and cultivators obtaining advances of food grains—those who could from their landlords, and those who could not from the relief officers; by a diminution of the proportion of the people receiving assistance from Government; by a general manifestation of feeling that peril from drought was for the present stayed; by relief establishments partially freed from outdoor avocations, and with more leisure to complete returns and accounts; by transport operations nearly over and granaries filled; by confidence that unless some new trouble should supervene, the allotments of Government grain will prove probably sufficient to the end.

"This fortunate change was caused by fourteen inches of rain falling in the course of twenty-four days in Eastern Tirhoot, and 7 to 10 inches in Western Tirhoot.

"Fears have been naturally entertained lest the wide-spreading system of relief—quite inevitable if famine and mortality were to be warded off; depending partly indeed on charitable subscriptions, but chiefly on State funds; embracing first the poorest, then all the laboring and a number of the agricultural and manufacturing classes, and extending latterly to the middle classes—should in a certain sense demoralize and pauperize the people, teaching them to forego self-help and to lean on the Government, rendering them unwilling

to return to ordinary employment when the change of season should arrive. These fears have been dissipated by the recent conduct of the people.

"It is affirmed by the best witnesses from all parts of Tirhoot that in the first days of July the area sown for the early crops to come on during August is much larger than usual; that various grounds, sometimes high pieces, sometimes low, not ordinarily sown with such crops, have this year been used for these sowings, the circumstance being especially observable in the most distressed tracts of North-Eastern Tirhoot. For instance, an intermediate crop of rice called *sathee* in the Mudhoobunnee tract, which is ordinarily insignificant, and regarding which we were warned in February last that it could not be depended upon for intermediate food supply, is now reported to have been sown to such an abnormal extent as to afford a substantial food supply, provided that it escapes submergence from the floods which must come if the heavy rains last. The *murwa* (coarse grain reaped towards the end of August) crop is scantily grown in Mudhoobunnee in ordinary years much less than elsewhere, which circumstance aggravated the case in that quarter, and rendered necessary a proportionably larger provision of Government grain. But it is reported that this *murwa* has been sown to an extent quite beyond the average, and promises excellently well. When I visited Hathee, Eastern Tirhoot, in the last days of May, extensive hollows in the surface of the country, ordinarily yielding rice, were abandoned as beyond hope by reason of drought. Instantly after the first fall of rain these lands were for a last chance taken up, and now it is reported that at least half of them are saved from being unproductive. Again in many places early coarse crops (*cheena*, *moong*, *&c.*) are being raised, as yet with good promise, close to the margin of streams, though the cultivators must well know that this produce would be all swamped if the waters were to rise one or two feet more. Instances might be multiplied. It is not, however, that the people have tried anything new in their husbandry; it is rather that this year they have carried many things to a degree which they would not care to attempt in ordinary years. And this is specially observable in respect to the early (August and September) crops from which they can get the first return; their anxiety manifestly being to acquire some grain of their own as soon as possible. An equally good beginning has been made with the sowing for the *amun* or winter rice crop, the mainstay and staff of life. Much, however, remains to be done for this crop; and to our European eyes the preparations of the cultivators in this respect seem backward: they may perhaps be allowed the credit of being the best judges in this matter, as they have shown such strenuous industry for the other crops. In those parts again where maize and millet are the staples, the preparations are as forward and as extensive as they could be.

"This progress towards large agricultural results could not of course have been obtained without the use of the services of every able-bodied person of both sexes and of every age. Accordingly all those who were congregated on the relief works (as was the case with the great majority of the petty cultivators and field laborers) went off from the 15th to 20th of June with the same rapidity as that with which they pressed on to the works from the 15th to the 20th March last. The out-turn of their work in the fields, as now seen, is too great to have been done wholly since they left the relief works. They must have gone on preparing their fields all the time that they were on relief piecework. The toil undergone during the long days of this fierce summer in order to keep up field husbandry, and yet to earn subsistence at the piecework must have been so extreme as to be hardly believed. Nevertheless, the fact is confirmed by much evidence, to the effect that the workpeople were often seen at piecework late in the evening and during the early hours of the night—the very men who must have been in their fields in the early morning. But they are now devoting all their hours to the fields; and the question is, how are they to find food till the next crops come in? Some obtain wages in kind; others procure advances in kind from their zemindars and landlords, whose stores are probably considerable; some borrow grain from petty bankers, whose stores are probably small; some live on their savings made while they were on relief works, and the rest receive advances of grain from the relief officers. One way and another they have all emerged from the worst period in unimpaired condition and in good heart to work for themselves. The surest way

of terminating the consequences of the last drought is to preserve the labor power of the country intact, and to direct it to raising at next harvest the utmost produce which the ground can bear. It is evident that these people, though duly grateful to the Government for its past aid and trustful of aid still being extended while the peril lasts (I am convinced of their gratitude, notwithstanding whatever may be asserted by some to the contrary), do yet prefer to trust to the work of their own hands. There has from the first been an expectation among the laboring classes that relief would ere long be stopped, and that works would be closed. They breathe more freely now that they see a chance of emancipating themselves from dependence on relief operations. The principal relief officer in Tirhoot assured me that this was manifest from their changed demeanour. The trading classes have a similar expectation ; traders have sometimes said that they would certainly resume their business as soon as the markets and rivers should permit, because they were sure that Government would not or could not keep up the relief works on its present scale. From their own repeated declarations to me I am sure that they are not at all afraid of Government interference. From no persons have I heard stronger expressions of gratitude, or more distinct assertions that the State had saved the fortunes of the traders by saving the lives of their numerous constituency, than from the principal native traders of Behar.

"The only adverse statement which I have ever heard regarding the cultivators is, to the effect that during the drought of last autumn they often omitted to do what they might have done for petty irrigation. Their conduct in other respects seems to show that such omission must have proceeded from ignorance and not from apathy.

"It is not meant that this good conduct has been pursued by every one. In this large population many instances have been, and may yet be, found of behaviour the reverse of that above described ; indeed at one time there sprung up a class of *mates* or gangmen who, for their own ends, tried to mislead the people and to foster idleness. But if the points as above set forth are in the main correct, as I believe them to be, then what becomes of the argument about the demoralization or pauperization of the people? Is it not demonstrable that neither of these evils has happened or is happening in Tirhoot? In justice to the people of this great district, it must be said that the crisis of 1874 has raised them in the estimation of Government—for their fortitude under suffering; their reluctance to come upon relief until driven by want; their diligence in retrieving the position they had temporarily lost; their quickness to seize the first opportunity of reverting to ordinary work. Nor should commendation be restricted to the cultivating and laboring classes. The zemindars have, as a body, done much by executing relief works from funds either their own or borrowed by them from Government; by making advances to their tenantry, both for food and for seed, and by becoming security for advances made to their tenantry for those purposes by the Government. The trading class has not indeed shown enterprise, but this is hardly a reproach if their conduct be fairly looked at, inasmuch as they never could have imported without loss. But the traders have shown alacrity in promoting the distribution of the Government grain among the people, and theirs is the agency for most of what has been, or may yet be done, in this respect.

"To this review of the condition of Tirhoot at the beginning of July may be added a *resumé* of the allotment, expenditure, and balance of the Government grain in this particular district (the balance being exclusive of wastage and loss).

Total allotment, including reserve last ordered	Expenditure to end of May shown in Narrative of 10th June.	Expenditure during June, chiefly actual, but estimated for the last week.	Total to end of June.	Estimated expenditure during July and August.	Balance expected on 1st September.
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons
1,70,044	23,600	27,279	50,879	55,500	71,665

"With the balance on 1st September (whatever it may prove to be after losses and wastage) there will have to be carried on the relief operations to the end of December, that is, four months. If a comparison be made with the

expenditure of Government grain during the earlier months of the year (say February, March, and April) that would be misleading, because relief was then given chiefly in money, whereas in the latter months it will be given chiefly in grain. Still, so far as can now be seen, the balance is considered sufficient for safety.

"The numbers of persons on the relief works in Tirhoot during some of the days of June amounted to 975,000, which figure represents the highest point. By the 1st July the numbers are believed to have fallen to 300,000. About the same time the numbers of recipients of charitable relief amounted to nearly 210,000. The largest number of all those receiving aid on any one date in Tirhoot—whether by relief wages, by gratuitous relief, by purchase, or by advances—is estimated to have been 1,774,000. This number much exceeds that originally estimated (one million), but it includes large numbers of Nepaulese, who all through the hot season purchased at the British granaries near their frontier. The numbers of these latter receiving aid cannot be stated, but they must have been considerable. After allowance for this, however, it must be admitted that the numbers in Tirhoot receiving assistance during the worst period did somewhat exceed even the high estimates which had been framed."

The Lieutenant Governor, in continuation of his remarks regarding the Tirhoot District, sends the following general remarks to be included in the present Narrative:—

"This Narrative relates to the latter half of June, which period had been looked to previously with perhaps greater anxiety than any period since the distress began. I will endeavour to review briefly the main points in the situation as it stood at the end of June and the beginning of July.

"The critical period of June then has begun and ended most favorably throughout the distressed districts. The rain began early, and has continued abundantly. The preparation of the fields for the early crops of August and September is found to be in a forward state. The sowings for those crops were done quickly and extensively. There was no want of seed for the most part. The area thus sown is believed to be larger than the average of ordinary years. The promise of the young crops to be reaped in August or September is excellent everywhere. The sowings for the later crop (rice to be reaped in December) are going on very well, though not completed. For these also there has been no considerable complaint of want of seed. The weather is very propitious; more sunshine is perhaps desired: if there be a fear at all, it is lest the rainfall should prove to be too much. The rainfall during June in the distressed districts north of the Ganges has averaged 11¼ inches.

"The demeanour of all classes connected with agriculture under this happy change of circumstances has been all, or nearly all, that could be desired. The cultivators have attended to their fields with the utmost diligence. The landlords have promptly engaged all the laborers required for field work, paying the wages in kind; and have made large advances of food grain to their tenants, where they were able, and have where they were not able to advance of themselves, co-operated with the relief officers by standing security for their ryots. The cultivators will have enough food to sustain themselves till the next harvest is gathered.

"The public health in the distressed districts has been, and is still, remarkably good, excepting only Maunbhoom, and perhaps also Rungpore, and a few places in Central Bengal. The general death-rate is believed to be less than the average. Even the Burdwan fever has somewhat abated. The cattle, too, have been healthy, and no epidemics have broken out among them.

"As would be expected under these circumstances, the number on the relief works has fallen greatly. At the beginning of June the number was 1,770,732, and at the end 893,163. In the most distressed districts the proportion of decrease has been very much greater than that indicated as in Tirhoot, Chumparun, Dinagepore, and Rungpore, where all able-bodied persons can get work in the fields. In some districts, however, there are many laboring families who cannot do this, and they have to stay on the works. In some places, too, the cultivators—occupants of lands—try to save expense by doing for themselves field-work for which they would in ordinary years employ paid labor. This circumstance would compel such laborers to remain on the works. Immediately on the first indication of the approach of the rains, instructions

were telegraphed to every principal relief centre to facilitate and expedite the transfer of relief laborers to the fields or to private employment. In this respect all, or nearly all, that could be wished has been accomplished. The expediency or otherwise of closing relief works altogether from the 15th July to 1st September has been considered. But after conference with the best authorities the proposal has been abandoned—partly because it might have the effect of unduly enlarging the lists of charitable relief, and partly because numbers may have to be re-admitted to the works after the harvesting of August shall cease to afford employment.

"On the other hand, the numbers on the lists for gratuitous and charitable relief have risen largely. At the end of June the number was 525,600 persons. The increase may have arisen partly from persons who had been on relief works applying for gratuitous relief after the closing or the reduction of the works. But the main cause is this, that as each week advances, distress spreads more and more over those of the lowest classes who cannot work. Though admission may sometimes have been granted without adequate inquiry, still on the whole the officers are strict to avoid admitting until the necessity is shown. Persons who could not make out a case before, who had still some little means unexhausted, are able now to convince the authorities that admission is necessary. Or again, as the circle and sub-circle officers in the interior of the distressed districts go the round of the villages time after time, they find each time more and more persons who have a claim on that humane and merciful consideration which the subscribers to these charitable funds desire to see shown. That it is duly shown, according to the instructions reiterated by the Government to its officers, is to some extent proved by the increase of the numbers.

"In these numbers are included all those who from high caste, or delicate nurture, or social antecedents, or inaptitude for labor by reason of skilled occupation for which the demand is temporarily in abeyance, cannot come forward to ask for relief or to work, but are yet sorely straitened, though not reduced to the verge of danger. There are many varieties of degree among these persons, and it is not easy to classify them statistically; but endeavour will be made to separate approximately the number of them from the number of ordinary recipients of charitable relief.

"The relief, being administered to a large extent by charitable funds, includes not only food but some extra article of sustenance; also clothing in all the worst cases, and sometimes assistance in carrying on some skilled work or manufacture which is depressed from the prevailing scarcity.

"It is to be remembered that some proportion of the recipients of this relief consists of professional beggars, of the sick, and the miserable of all sorts, who have been in ordinary years supported by private charity without State intervention, but who cannot be thus sustained this year because the donors who have heretofore fed them are now distressed themselves. All these will revert to that private charity which is so extensive among the natives, immediately that returning plenty shall cheapen prices.

"The granting of advances of food grain to ryots has been more and more recognized as one of the best means of ensuring such industrious cultivation as would help to secure a large yield for those coming harvests which will, we hope, put an end to the distress. If the cultivators, occupants of fields, after having long ago exhausted their previous supply, and having for weeks sustained themselves only by wages on relief works, are to leave the works and devote themselves to the fields until September,—how are they to live in the mean time? They really must get an advance of food grain from some quarter; otherwise their position would for the moment be worse than that of the field laborers who can earn wages.

"If they obtain such advances from the landlord, as they frequently can, or from the grain-dealers, as they ordinarily can in good years, and as they can sometimes even in this year—well. If, as is often the case, they cannot obtain the advances from either of these two quarters, there is nothing for it but to avert the mischief by granting an advance from the Government stores. Many applications were made, and the matter was much agitated by the cultivators. As the cultivating season became urgent, it would not have been prudent to await the receipt of individual applications from numbers of ignorant persons who might not know how to apply, inasmuch as mischief might set in before

the business could be settled. Therefore the relief organization in the circles and sub-circles was called into play for promptly ascertaining, village by village, in the most distressed districts the circumstances of all cultivators who really needed advances and who could not obtain them otherwise than from Government. Much progress has been made with this work, which from its nature was pressing, and which is probably near completion by this date. Sometimes the cultivator can give security; sometimes the zemindar will stand security; sometimes the cultivators of a whole village will become joint security one for the other. In every case the officer is to make the best arrangement he can to ensure repayment of the advance. By the returns brought up to 10th June 3,84,000 maunds of grain, equal to 14,000 tons, had been thus advanced to cultivators. The number of the recipients is not precisely known, but on a calculated average of 2 maunds to a cultivator, we obtain a number of 192,000 cultivators, heads of families. If the numbers of the families be calculated (as they ought to be in order to see the total of the persons concerned), the aggregate, at an average of 4 persons per family, would be 768,000 persons. In other words, three-quarters of a million of persons of the class of cultivators occupying land were assisted by advances of Government grain to the 10th June. The inquiries have been since going on actively, and before the end the total numbers must very greatly exceed those above stated.

"Besides these advances of grain, there were many advances of cash from Government directly to the ryots, or indirectly to them through the zemindars. These have now been discontinued.

"The sale of Government grain is going on actively at all those places which have been mentioned in previous Narratives. It has not been recently extended to any additional places. The amount of grain sold up to the end of the third week in June is returned at 61,000 tons (this does not mean the total of grain expended, which is much more, as will be presently seen). But in this amount is included the grain sold to relief laborers who, having got cash wages, purchase Government grain.

"The selling price of Government rice has been reduced from 12 to 13 seers for the rupee in Behar, including the Patna and Bhaugulpore Commissionerships and the western part of the distressed districts; and to 14 seers for the rupee in the Rajshahye Commissionership or eastern part of these districts. This reduction was deemed necessary under the conditions of the rules regarding sale referred to in previous Narratives.

"It is impossible to distinguish the laborers purchasing grain from other members of the public, or to state what proportion of the total purchases is represented by purchases made by them. It is believed, however, that at least half, perhaps more than half, of the total represents purchases by the public exclusive of relief laborers. Instructions have been reiterated to all officers to suspend the sales wherever and whenever private trade should bring in supplies, and to avoid interference or competition with such trade. It cannot indeed be affirmed that in no case has trade ever been, directly or indirectly, interfered with by the Government operations. But such interference has for the most part been successfully avoided. I have frequently received declarations from native traders to this effect. And that this is really the case in the main is proved by the remarkable activity of private trade in the western part of the distressed area especially. During the period of scarcity nearly 148,000 tons of private grain have been carried by railway up to Behar (including the Commissionerships of Patna and Bhaugulpore), and nearly 185,000 tons down; in all 333,000 tons brought by rail. It is more difficult to ascertain the statistics of the river trade in grain to the eastern part of the distressed districts, but it appears as yet to be inconsiderable. Perhaps its turn has yet to come.

"The private grain brought by rail to Behar is apparently not destined for the most distressed places in the north; it will be probably absorbed by the intermediate tracts in the basin of the Ganges. In all the most distressed districts there is no private rice whatever for sale in open market; it is universally declared by those in, and those out of the trade that there would be no rice at all purchaseable but for the Government supplies.

"Since the beginning of the rains the price of rice in Bengal has become cheaper by about 15 per cent. It is (as I learn) the opinion of the principal

native grain merchants in the interior of Bengal (except those of Calcutta whom I have not met) that prices will not fall materially till September, when there will be some favorable difference, but that prices must remain dear as compared with ordinary years till the winter rice crop is secured, which cannot be till December. They have generally recommended us to continue selling Government grain freely until at least September. Their testimony to this effect is remarkable.

"The point which next in order suggests itself is the total expenditure of Government grain. Returns brought up to the end of the third week of June show a total expenditure of 115,000 tons, including everything, namely, that given in gratuitous relief, paid in kind to relief laborers, sold to the public inclusive of relief laborers, advanced to ryots, but not including anything for wastage or losses.

"In order to estimate the total number of persons receiving assistance of some sort during the first fortnight of June, we have the following data to form a basis:—

Total number of relief laborers, as per paragraph 18 of the Twentieth Narrative	1,770,732
Total number of persons on charitable relief, as per paragraph 24 of Ditto	401,959
Total grain expenditure in maunds of first half of June, as per district narratives	843,000

"Thus we have 2,172,691 persons receiving relief, quite irrespective of those who are living on advances or purchases of Government grain. The amount of Government grain, disposed of during the fortnight, would give three-fourths of a seer a day to 3,401,900 persons for a fortnight. But among the people who consumed Government grain were all the persons on charitable relief and a large portion of the laborers. The district narratives show that by the end of the first fortnight of June the practice of paying all laborers in grain, though largely introduced, had not been fully carried out. The Bhaugulpore return is the one which best distinguishes between sales to the public and those to laborers; and that shows 98,228 maunds sold to the public, as against 25,628 maunds sold to laborers. All the district narratives show that the non-laboring public are the chief customers at our granaries.

"It would therefore be probably within the truth to take one-half of the persons supported by Government grain as being outside the relief labor and charitable relief lists. By this reckoning the total numbers receiving assistance in one shape or another would be—

Laborers and paupers as above	2,172,691
One-half the consumers of Government grain ...	1,700,950
TOTAL ...	3,873,641

"This revised calculation corresponds closely with the calculation given in my narrative of the 11th June. It then seemed to be possibly too high, but is now seen not to be so. The best estimate that we can frame shows that the number at the worst period was 3,900,000 persons receiving assistance of some sort, which is somewhat above the estimate of 3,500,000 originally framed. The cause is this, that subsequently some tracts became distressed which were not included in the area of distress when the first estimate was made, and were not included in that inquiry.

"The foregoing statement leads directly to the consideration of the adequacy, or otherwise, of the quantities of Government grain stored in the distressed districts. The quantities allotted amount to close upon 400,000 tons; the quantities already shown as expended up to the end of the third week in June amount to 115,000 tons; the balance remaining therefore would have amounted to 285,000 tons, less abatement for wastage and losses. These stores are under the Government of Bengal; besides which there is the reserve at the Presidency under the Government of India. It becomes important to arrive at a definite opinion as to whether the balance available in the interior of the distressed districts is sufficient for safety. The average monthly expenditure for the two past months from the third week of April to the third week of June

inclusive has been 53,000 tons a month, or 13,000 tons a week. The best-informed persons believe that a somewhat higher rate of expenditure will continue till the third week in August, that is, two months more from the period last named. If an average of 60,000 tons a month be maintained, there would be a further expenditure of 120,000 tons, making a total of 235,000 tons to the third week of August inclusive, leaving a balance of 165,000 tons, less abatement for wastage and losses. From the end of August it is expected that the rate of expenditure will decrease if the autumn crops shall prove good. Until the end of August it is probable that the sales will be large; the advances to ryots considerable; the expenditure on gratuitous and charitable relief high, and on relief works comparatively low, and becoming lower week by week. From the end of August the sales will, it is hoped, decrease greatly; the advances to ryots almost cease, while the expenditure on charitable relief will continue high, and on relief works may rise again somewhat, though never to the height attained during the hot months. On the whole, it is expected that (if all goes well with the season and crops) the average expenditure during the two months (September and October) will be less than during the previous four months, and still further less during the next two months (November and December), after which the distress will, we trust, cease altogether. The entire duration of the distress must always be remembered, for from the very first the estimates of the Government have been based on the anticipation that this distress would last into December in most of the distressed districts, and especially in Tirhoot. It is not necessary to pursue these calculations further, because they partly depend on rainfall which may be vouchsafed or withheld, and on crops which may be gathered in more or less abundance. A general view of the case certainly shows that, so far as can now be seen, the stores in the districts are sufficient for safety; but they are not more than sufficient on the whole. It might indeed be doubted whether they would be enough in this sense, were it not that the reserve existed at the Presidency. It is already seen that some particular places have too much grain and other places too little, and every effort is made to transfer grain from the points of surplus to those of deficit. The foregoing remarks refer to the stores in the aggregate. Beyond reasonable doubt we have ample stores in the districts, as a whole, till September. If by that date any fresh danger should arise or threaten, there would be time to throw into the districts additional supplies which would be obtained from the reserve at the Presidency.

"The importance of protecting the Government stores from deterioration during the rains has been remembered. All the numerous store-houses in the interior have recently been inspected by officers specially appointed for the purpose, and are for the most part reported to be efficient. A second inspection as the season advances may be necessary.

"The preparation of the special accounts of expenditure, both of grain and of cash, is being carried on under trained supervision.

"The land transport service, which at one time assumed such pressing importance, has now passed away. In Tirhoot the conclusion of this service was extraordinarily troublesome. The heavy rains falling so early in June embarrassed the lines of transit, distressed the beasts of draught and burden, causing many casualties among them, and damaged much of the grain. The brunt of this was borne by the reserve carriage (of various kinds) belonging to Government. The value of this carriage at that critical and crucial juncture proved that its presence was indispensable to the final success of the operations in Tirhoot. Many granaries now filled must have remained unfilled; many markets which will be supplied must have remained incompletely supplied; many mouths which will be fed must have remained unfed—but for the reserve carriage belonging to Government. The animals of all sorts are now being taken care of, so that they may recover from their fatigues and ailments, and be ready for more service if necessary, or for advantageous disposal, by sale or otherwise, hereafter.

"The preparation for water carriage, as explained in previous Narratives, are made in case necessity should arise; but no operations in this line are as yet contemplated, except the despatch of a small quantity (about 10,000 tons) of reserve grain to North-Eastern Tirhoot.

"The organization of relief circles and sub-circles, with their ramifications penetrating to every village, will still be fully maintained for some time to come in all the districts. There have been casualties among our officers (from accidents on horseback, sunstroke, and the like), but as yet very little sickness. Among the officers and gentlemen engaged in the relief service there are included many indigo planters who manage circles or sub-circles with a diligence equal to, and with a local knowledge greater than, that of any one else. All Europeans and natives, official and non-official, are alike animated by unflagging zeal under each change and variety of the ever-shifting circumstances; the object aimed at by all to the very end of the distress being this, that of the hundreds of thousands of lives entrusted to their keeping not one should be lost from preventible causes."

Weather and Rainfall.—The weather continues to be most satisfactory throughout the greater part of the country, and everywhere, except in the comparatively small tracts immediately to the east of Calcutta, the rainfall is reported as ample for all requirements.

State of Crops.—The prospects of the crops continue most favorable, and almost everywhere a more than average yield is anticipated from the autumn crops. These latter have already begun to come into the market in some districts.

Prices.—Prices show a tendency to fall almost everywhere throughout the country. The only districts where a rise is reported are Burdwan, Calcutta, Pubna, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and Monghyr. In the latter districts, though the price of rice has risen, that of barley has fallen considerably. Prices have fallen in Hooghly, 24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Jessore, Moorshedabad, Dinagepore, Maldah, Rajshahye, Rungpore, Darjeeling, Dacca, Furreedpore, Sylhet, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Tipperah, Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Purneah, Cuttack, and Hazareebaugh. In other districts they are stationary. The fall has been most conspicuous in Rungpore and Shahabad. In the former district the price of rice fell from 9-6 to 11-4 seers for the rupee, and in Shahabad rice fell from 10-12 to 11-8, and barley from 18-4 to 20 seers for the rupee.

Private Trade to Behar.—The usual note on food grains is forwarded. The private trade returns for grain carried by railway show a decrease of 5,077 tons in the up and down traffic; but this is more than compensated by the increase in the river traffic, which shows an increase of 5,289 tons. Now that the rivers are open, it is probable that the larger share of the traffic will go by that route.

North Tirhoot.—The Lieutenant-Governor has given so full an account of the state of this district that any further remarks in this part of the report are unnecessary.

South Tirhoot.—Prices in this district are reported as easier, owing more to the improved prospects of the crops than to the activity of trade. Sowings have all been completed, and the laborers have left the relief works in large numbers for the fields. The prospects of the crops are said to be excellent, and the people to be in very good condition.

Chumparun.—The prospects here are quite as good as in the adjoining district of South Tirhoot, and it is satisfactory to learn that the experience of the past year has had the result of inducing the people to cultivate a much larger breadth of land than usual, much land hitherto fallow having been this year broken up for crops. In Ramnuggur some difficulty in procuring seed has been felt by the poorer ryots, but elsewhere the supplies have been abundant.

Sarun.—There is little change in this district; supplies continue abundant, and prospects are very good; but the general poverty of the cultivators render considerable advances of grain necessary. These are being distributed with as much expedition as is consistent with an adequate inquiry into the circumstances of the borrowers.

South Behar.—The rains here have been as abundant as elsewhere; but while they have been of the greatest benefit to the crops, the unusually heavy

rainfall has caused damage to some tracts, as the hill streams, which are numerous in that part of the country, have in several cases overflowed their banks. The most extensive flood seems to have been that caused by the overflow of the Soane near Arrah, but nowhere does it appear that any serious losses have been incurred, and there is still probably time to re-sow the crops which may have suffered.

Bhaugulpore Division.—The reports from this division continue good, and the condition of the people in Bahadoorgunge in Purneah, where distress was reported last fortnight, has much improved. Some slight damage has been done by floods in Monghyr. The zemindars in Soopool, in the Bhaugulpore District, are said to have been especially active in assisting their ryots.

Rajshahye Division.—In the Rungpore District this season's rice is said to have already made its appearance in the market, but it does not seem probable that it can have much effect upon the food supply of the country till the end of August. By that time the whole crop will have been gathered and stored for a sufficient time to render it wholesome. The Collector of Dinagepore, who has written fully on the subject, seems to think that but little of the crop will be available for sale to the public, as most of it will be retained by the growers for their own consumption; but as many of these men are now subsisting on purchased rice, the withdrawal of so much demand will naturally tend to render prices easier for those who have still to buy, and will certainly diminish, though by no means put a stop to, the demand for the Government grain. Mr. Lowis seems to think that as the area under early rice is so much more extensive than usual, it will probably suffice to maintain the growers till the end of January, when the *amun* crop will be ready for use.

Burdwan Division.—Rain has not been so general or abundant in this division as in the rest of the country; and though there is no great anxiety felt with regard to any of the crops, yet more rain is reported as wanted in Hooghly, Howrah, and the north-east of Midnapore. Throughout the greater part of Midnapore a bumper *aous* crop is expected. Advances to ryots are being freely given in this division.

Cooch Behar Division : Julpigoree.—No special narrative has been received from this district, but the latest information shows that there is little present distress and every prospect of coming abundance.

Chota Nagpore.—The reports show a great improvement in the condition of the people. At present no part of this division can be considered to be distressed except parts of Maunbhoom, and it is hoped that the autumn crops will bring early relief to this district.

Transport of Grain.—Grain is still going to the Burdwan Division, as the recent orders, rendering it imperative on all officers to make advances and pay relief laborers in grain, make it necessary to store grain in all the districts of the division.

Relief Works.—The following statement shows the average number of relief laborers during the fortnight under report as compared with that preceding it :—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Patna Division	1,368,087	597,962
Gunduck Embankment ..	27,574	19,848
Soane Canal...	31,945	26,352
Bhaugulpore Division	88,448	76,724
Rajshahye Division	155,466	107,633
Northern Bengal Railway ...	22,622	13,274
Burdwan and Chota Nagpore ..	72,849	51,370
Cooch Behar ...	3,741	not received.
TOTAL ...	1,770,732	893,163

These returns show a very large decrease over those submitted during the last three months, and as the numbers on the works on the last day of the fortnight were in almost all cases less than the average daily number for the whole period, we may hope for a still further diminution in the numbers during the next fortnight.

The following table shows the numbers employed in each district, with details, as far as they are available, of those employed on piecework and daily wages :—

Divisions.	Names of Districts.	Laborers under Public Works Department.	Laborers under Circle officers.	Total Laborers.	Task or piece-work.	Daily wages.
Patna ...	Tirhoot (North)	44,639	143,422	188,061	146,188	41,873
	Tirhoot (South)	.....	131,731	131,731	no details.	
	Chumparun	42,644	.....	42,664	ditto.	
	Sarun	208,549	9,548	218,097	ditto.	
	Patna	10,858	.....	10,858	ditto.	
	Gya	....	2,124	2,124	1,001	1,123
	Shahabad	3,653	794	4,447	4,274	172
	Total ...	310,343	287,619	597,962	151,463	43,169
	Gunduck Embankment ...	19,848	.....	19,848	84,936	.....
	Soane Canal	26,352	.....	26,352	26,352	.....
	Total ...	46,200	.....	46,200	46,200	.....
	Total for Patna Division	356,543	287,619	644,162	212,751	43,169
Bhaugulpore ...	Monghyr	3,130	.....	3,130	2,807	323
	Bhaugulpore	13,086	9,761	22,847	22,779	68
	Purneah	10,595	16,597	27,192	27,192	.....
	Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	23,555	.....	23,555	chiefly taskwork.	
	Total ...	50,366	26,358	76,724	52,778	391
Rajshahye ...	Maldah	2,796	1,640	4,436	no details.	
	Dinagepore	32	40,513	40,545	9,405	25,781 details imperfect.
	Rungpore	.....	28,328	28,328	11,264	3,576 imperfect.
	Bogra	16,520	.....	16,520	no details.	
	Moorshedabad	4,592	...	4,592	ditto.	
	Rajshahye	938	12,274	13,212	ditto.	
	Total ...	24,878	82,755	107,633	10,669	29,357
	Northern Bengal Railway ..	13,274	.....	13,274	13,274	... .
Chota Nagpore	Maunbhoom	12,082	3,992	16,074	8,191	3,809 details imperfect
	Palamow	1,493	.....	1,493	.....	1,493
	Hazareebaugh	... .	not received.			
	Total ...	13,575	3,992	17,567	8,191	5,302
Burdwan ...	Hooghly	4,026	...	4,026	.....	.....
	Beerbhoom	13,146	.....	13,146	.....	.. .
	Bankoora	4,866	.....	4,866	.....	.. .
	Burdwan	8,199	3,566	11,765	9,694	details imperfect.
	Total ...	30,237	3,566	33,803	9,694	. ..
Cooch Behar ...	Julpigoree	....	not received.			
	Grand Total ...	488,873	404,290	893,163	3,07,357	78,219

Gunduck Embankment and Canal.—Work is progressing on the roads and on the canal. About five miles of the latter have been completed. About three miles of the Sarun Canal have been put in hand, and labor is said to be much wanted.

Soane Canal.—Work has been much impeded by the heavy rains. About 34 lakhs of cubic feet of earthwork have been completed in the Kurrumnassa Division during the fortnight.

Northern Bengal Railway.—The work has been much hindered by rain and floods, but notwithstanding 670,000 cubic feet of earthwork have been thrown up during the fortnight. The total work up to date amounts to 6,375,800 cubic feet, equal to 134 miles of 4-feet bank, besides 99 miles of feeder roads. Major Lindsay expects to be able to give employment during the rains to about the same number of workpeople as are working now, as he has purposely left a part of the work on the higher ground untouched, so as to give employment to the people during the rainy season.

The following return shows the numbers in the receipt of charitable relief during this fortnight, as compared with that under review in the previous Narrative :—

Divisions.	Names of Districts.	Number of Centres.	Number on Charitable Relief.	
			This fortnight.	Last fortnight.
Patna	Tirhoot (North)	681	187,106	162,294
	Tirhoot (South)		21,568	13,647
	Chumparun	50	135,52*	15,664
	Sarun	18	26,955	7,122
	Patna	none.	none.	none.
	Gya	12	1,551	1,070
	Shahabad	15	2,266	846
	Total ...	776	252,998	200,643
Bhaugulpore ...	Monghyr	16	1,984	1,090
	Bhaugulpore	15	43,953	39,740
	Purneah	55	5,386	5,888
	Sonthal Pergunnahs	.....	.....	... ..
	Total ...	86	51,323	46,718
Rajshahye	Maldah	33	12,730	9,572
	Dinagepore	447	54,693	22,460
	Rungpore	33	27,720	23,124
	Bogra	30	19,092	13,705
	Moorshedabad	24	9,815	5,916
	Rajshahye	19	7,452	7,009
	Pubna	.....	1,400	10,966
	Total ...	586	132,902	1,02,268
Chota Nagpore ...	Maunbhoom	.....	11,226	10,490
Burdwan	Hooghly	.....	3,923	4,043
	Bheerbhoom	.....	18,014	10,913
	Bankoora	.....	28,635	14,446
	Burdwan	.....	26,599	15,382
	Total ...	.....	77,171	44,784
	Grand Total ...	1,448	525,620	404,903

* Returns incomplete.

The returns show an increase in all districts except Chumparun, Purneah, Pubna, and Hooghly. In the firstnamed districts the returns are imperfect, and the decrease is probably rather nominal than real; in the remaining districts it is insignificant, except in Pubna, where the inquiries made by the Collector have largely reduced the numbers. Though it can scarcely be expected that these numbers will be largely reduced for some months to come, yet probably they will decrease rather than otherwise, as the present returns show a considerable number of persons who have received a grant of grain on being removed on the relief works, and these will not appear again on the returns. On the other hand, there will be increasing numbers of old and infirm persons, who have hitherto done nominal work on relief works, who will be driven to accept charitable relief from their inability to maintain themselves otherwise.

MINUTES

BY THE

HON'BLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

No. 1.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Tirhoot District, dated Camp Durbhanga, January 31, 1874.

Having visited the Tirhoot District, seen some of the tracts most affected by drought, conversed with the Commissioner and the civil officers, and with most of the principal non-official residents, European and Native, I desire to state the amount of Government grain which we should be prepared to bring into the district, and the arrangements for transport from the left bank of the Ganges into the interior.

The principal relief officer, Mr. Worsley, calculates the amount of grain required for his operations at 4 millions of maunds, or 148,200 tons.

The Collector, Mr. Halliday, estimates 3,500,000 maunds, which estimate is approved by the Commissioner, Mr. Steuart Bayley.

It is borne out to some extent by Colonel Burne, Manager of the Durbhanga Estate, which has a population of half a million of people situated in the most drought-stricken parts of the district. He states the requirement for his portion of the district at 740,000 maunds.

Mr. Macdonnell, civil officer of the Durbhanga Sub-division, expects that at the worst period 400,000 persons will come on the hands of Government in his sub-division.

Mr. Cochran, civil officer of the Madhobunee Sub-division, states his fear that at the worst period more than 400,000 persons will require relief in his sub-division in some shape or other from Government.

Mr. O'Reilly, the civil officer of the Seetamurree Sub-division, informed me that he expected to have 150,000 persons on the hands of Government during the worst months.

There will be distress throughout the north-west corner of the Tajpore Sub-division. The Collector thinks that 30,000 persons may here come on our hands.

In the rest of Tajpore, and in the two remaining sub-divisions of Hajeepore and Mozufferpore, there is not likely to be any general distress. But in Mozufferpore there will be some thousands of persons seeking relief.

Thus the estimates of local officers give about one million as the number of souls who will come on our hands in the Tirhoot District, out of a total population of upwards of 4 millions, or 25 per cent; and this is the district most severely affected in the whole Behar Province.

The estimate of a million of persons corresponds very much with the estimate of 3½ millions of maunds, or 120,700 tons, as separately made by the Collector.

These statements represent nothing more than anticipations regarding subjects wherein certainty is not possible. But the time has now come when we must make the best estimate we can of the amount which will have to be transported into the interior, from the left or north bank of the Ganges.

Looking at all the statements together, I consider that it will not be safe to provide carriage for less than four millions of maunds of food-grain, or 148,200 tons, which gives a margin over and above the Collector's estimate. The worst two months will be May and June, though the month preceding that period (April) may be bad; and the three months subsequent, (July, August, and September,) will almost certainly be so. Up to July, land carriage only will be available. From July there will be help from water carriage, but the land carriage would fall off, and it would be preferable to bring the whole, or 4 millions of maunds, into the northern part of the district by the 15th June, the distances for inland carriage being from 40 to 80 miles from the Ganges.

Such being the present requirement, I have to see how it is to be met.

It was ascertained at Patna that the transport agent there (Mr. Hewitt) had despatched from there 200,000 maunds to arrive in the distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot by the 15th February, and had arranged to send from that date 50,000 maunds a week, which arrangement would place 800,000 maunds in those sub-divisions by the 15th June, making up one million in all.

The Court of Wards (Durbhanga) has already arranged to bring 200,000 maunds.

The amount for which cash advances have been granted by Government to zemindars, indigo planters, and others, on condition that they bring the grain up in time, may be taken at 50,000 maunds.

The Collector, under direction of the Commissioner, has just made contracts with trustworthy European contractors to bring up 110,000 maunds a week from Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barrh, from the 15th February, which arrangement up to 15th June would place 1,760,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions.

I have invited tenders, on the suggestion of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, for contracts, to be concluded there, to carry 200,000 maunds a week from the left bank of Ganges to these sub-divisions from 1st April to 15th June, which arrangement, if effected, would bring in 2 millions of maunds.

These figures give the following results up to 15th June:—

	Mds.
Patna Agency	1,000,000
Court of Wards	200,000
Zemindars, indigo planters, and others	50,000
By local contracts	1,760,000
By North-West contracts	2,000,000
TOTAL ...	5,010,000

These arrangements will, if successful, provide more than the 4 millions required by 15th June, and will leave a fair margin to cover those partial failures which must be expected in operations of this kind.

I have provided a reserve of carts, to be at disposal of the Commissioner in event of need or accident, by ordering purchase of 500 pairs of draught bullocks in Nepaul, the carts to be made in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks will be purchased on the frontier of Chumparun District, or failing that, the bullocks will be purchased at Shahabad cattle fair, and carts made up in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks are being obtained through the Government of the North-Western Provinces. Thus the reserve will be made up of 1,500 carts drawn by bullocks.

I have further, at the instance of the Commissioner and the Collector, recommended the laying down of a tramway from the left bank of the Ganges to Madhobúnee *viâ* Durbhanga to relieve the country carriage during the hot season.

Again the Commissioner hopes to conclude a contract for the carriage of 50,000 maunds a week from 15th February from the Ganges opposite Monghyr to Durbhanga. This arrangement, if successful, would place 800,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions by 15th June, and may be regarded as a reserve to make up for deficiencies in other parts of the general plan.

We cannot be sure that the contracts asked for in the North-Western Provinces will be taken up. If they are not, we have still time to purchase or hire large quantities of carriage in those Provinces.

Also, further purchases of draught cattle can, if necessary, be probably effected in Nepaul or elsewhere, the carts being made up in Tirhoot.

We can, if absolutely necessary, obtain pack bullocks from Central India; but we are adverse to that plan, if it can be avoided, because of the difficulty of fodder.

We can, as a last resource, obtain camels through the Commissariat at Agra; but the expense and the distance detract from the value of this plan.

By the advice of the Commissioner and the Collector, I have sent a requisition to the Government, North-Western Provinces, for 50,000 maunds of cotton seed (highly recommended as fodder), to be sent by railway to Patna, and a similar requisition to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces; or 100,000 maunds in all. I am assured by the best-informed persons in Tirhoot that this supply will be most useful to the transport service during the hot months.

By excavation of wells and old tanks along the routes of the grain transit, the Commissioner and the Collector hope to provide drinking water for the cattle employed in the transport. They have arranged their relief works with this view.

The resources of the Tirhoot District in carriage are more than ordinarily great. The indigo planting and manufacture cause a large number of carts and bullocks to be kept up by the ryots and villagers. There is a large export trade in prosperous years of produce from the district (estimated, inclusive of rice, at 5 millions of maunds annually), which is chiefly carried to the Ganges by carts. There are many European non-official gentlemen resident in the district engaged in trade or industry. Thus it becomes possible to effect contracts, the execution of which can be relied upon to a considerable extent. The Commissioner and the Collector have very properly decided to resort to contracts for carriage, and not to collect carriage by direct agency of police or other establishments.

Lastly, if notwithstanding all these precautions, something more should be required after the 15th June, there would still remain two more months, up to 15th August, during which supplies could be brought up to distressed districts by water carriage.

These transport arrangements hold good only as far as the principal points within the distressed tracts. There will still remain detailed arrangements for the conveyance of grain to the villages. These will be made separately.

It is assumed that the railway will bring the requisite quantities of grain to the south or right bank of the Ganges. There will remain the provision of boats for crossing the Ganges; and for this purpose, from 400 to 500 boats will suffice. This number Mr. Hewitt will certainly be able to obtain, and he has been instructed accordingly.

According to the above estimate, I have, by the advice of the Commissioner and Collector, to recommend that 200,000 maunds a week may be sent forward from Calcutta for the service of the Tirhoot District, consigned to the care of Mr. Hewitt.

I hope that the arrangements explained in this Minute will not be thought larger than what the occasion demands. Unless we act effectively now regarding transport, the opportunity for action will pass away. The tracts most severely affected by scarcity happen to be those which are the most distant, the most isolated, and the most helpless. In the most part of Madhobunee and in many parts of Durbhanga the September crop is always small. Consequently the distress will be more than ordinarily protracted; will last through the autumn, and will not disappear at the earliest till December. And during the rainy season the rivers in that quarter (the Tiljooga, the Bolan, and the Kumla) are navigable only for small boats.

Note by the Hon'ble Sir George Campbell on Sir Richard Temple's Minute (see above), regarding the supply of grains for the Tirhoot District, dated Calcutta, February 5, 1874.

This Minute only reached me very late yesterday evening. I think that it should be at once laid before the Government of India, and therefore submit it early this morning with this general note without delaying to refer to recent figures.

I confess that the estimate now made exceeds what I had thought that Government could undertake in any distressed district, and also exceeds my estimate of our powers of transport. I have always supposed that there must be *some* stocks; that the year's produce, small though it be, will one way and another last for some time; that private trade will do something; that something will be saved by pinching and a resort to food not usually consumed, and that Government can only supply the margin left when all these resources are taken into account. Admitting that the people of this country are more self-reliant in the matter of food, and less inclined to throw themselves permanently on Government or the public than in some other countries, I yet feel that this may to some extent be due to the fact that they have been obliged to help themselves in default of other means. And though all humane men would be glad if it were possible to maintain the people in full comfort and health in times of scarcity, the attempt to do so might not only prove an impossible task, but if it were possible, might have the effect of rendering the people much less self-reliant than hitherto. I believe then that it is necessary that we should hedge in our aid by severe tests; that, painful though it be, we cannot in practice do more than so much as will avert actual starvation, while the people must still submit to severe privation and suffering on such an occasion as that which has overtaken us.

I am certainly not one of those who place an undue reliance on private trade for imports of food from abroad into Bengal: I have had no reliance whatever on any such trade. But for the distribution of food within this country, I have throughout believed that private trade will in most quarters do much and should be permitted to do so, though there are some limited tracts in which it fails, and where Government must undertake almost the whole task. Wherever private trade exists or can be developed, I have not the least doubt that it acts in every way more beneficially than the operations of Government.

Now, as regards a great part of Tirhoot, private trade cannot be overlooked. Patna is in fact at this moment overflowing with private grain seeking an outlet, and if that outlet be found, farther private supplies are forthcoming in large quantities from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces. Private trade certainly reaches Mozufferpore. We learned from the last report that 20 new grain shops had lately been established there by outside dealers. And by giving facilities for carriage and advances, I cannot doubt that private trade may be led to do much in Central and North-Western Tirhoot.

The last report stated that 200,000 maunds of grain had lately been imported from Nepaul into the Seetamurree Division alone. In other quarters, by driblets, something no doubt finds its way into the distressed country. We have always then contemplated that the route from Patna by Mozufferpore should, as much as possible, be left open to private traffic, and that this traffic should be, as much as possible, stimulated by advances. I have relaxed the rule which originally required persons taking advances to import grain from a distance so far that the Tirhoot and other local dealers may have advances for importations from Patna and other railway stations. I cannot but think that Sir Richard Temple has much under-estimated what may be done by these advances when he puts the amount to be obtained by this means at 50,000 maunds only; I hope it will prove to be very much more.

So much I have said regarding private trade merely to clear the ground; but I most entirely agree that we must not too much rely on private trade. For North-East Tirhoot, I believe, we must ourselves undertake most of the work.

The tract in Tirhoot which chiefly depends on rice, and where the failure has been most excessive, is not the whole, but, speaking roughly, about half the district. In this view the estimate of a million people on our hands

assumes nearer 50 per cent. than 25 per cent. of the population of the most distressed tract—a very liberal estimate.

Accepting that estimate of the number to be supported, I still cannot but think that the supply of food for them is estimated too liberally. Sir Richard Temple says 3½ millions maunds tallies with the estimate of one million people. To be safe, he says 4 millions of maunds. This implies a provision of 3½ to 4 maunds per head. Now, we have estimated the food required for the whole support of an adult male to be ¾ of a seer or 1½lbs. per diem, *viz.*, 1lb. of rice or wheat and ½lb. of pulse, vegetable, fish, &c. The failure has been chiefly a rice failure; the pulses are good. The present rain will allow some quick-growing grains and vegetables to be sown. Fish, milk, &c., are still in the country. Many classes habitually eat meat, even in the shape of dead bullocks, mice, &c. If Government supplies 1lb. per head of rice or other grain, I think the people may find the remaining quantity of food necessary to subsistence; and the above estimate is for an adult male, and if we extend it to the whole population—men, women, children, and infants—it becomes very liberal. I have been inclined to think that if, infants and all included, we supply a maund of 82lbs. for ninety days, or three months, that eked out in other ways will probably suffice. Certainly 1½ maunds or 123lbs. for four months would be a very ample provision.

As regards the time for which provision must be made, it must be remembered that it is not till comparatively late in the season that the largest numbers come on our hands; then, if the people survive the worst months before the rains without being too entirely reduced, they gradually withdraw to cultivation. Tirhoot is a moist district; if the present genial fall moistens the ground well, and augurs the early rain-supply, which very frequently follows a bad year, a good deal may be grown even in the hot months, and what is called the *bhadoi, i. e.*, the fast-growing maize, *murwa*, &c., come in, in August. I have been inclined to think a four months' supply for the distressed population about a fair estimate, especially if we have some further reserve for the rains; that four months' supply would be 1½ millions maunds.

At any rate it appeared to me that if we could secure two millions maunds in the tracts distant from river and rail before the rains, and arrange for a reserve, which could be thrown in early in the rains in case of necessity, we should have done our duty fairly by the Tirhoot District.

Now, as regards transport. For some time I was not satisfied that so much in proportion had been done in Tirhoot as in some other districts; less has been despatched to Tirhoot than to Chumparun, and Tirhoot is certainly the district regarding which I have felt most cause for anxiety. Latterly things have got into better train; but seeing all that has passed, I was inclined to feel satisfied if the arrangements were such that 100,000 maunds per week were actually and without fail despatched by the direct land routes to the north of Tirhoot, the routes being so arranged as to leave room for a good private traffic on the Mozufferpore route. Latterly the local officers had promised more, and I have continued for some time past very distinctly to say that the need of the Tirhoot District exceeded the means of carriage on which we can rely, and that the local officers were simply to send forward as much as they probably could, any excess over my minimum demand being so much gain. Though they have held out hopes of more than the rate I have stated, still, looking to previous shortcomings, I had not ventured recently to calculate on more than 100,000 maunds per week by the direct routes. At this rate the supply would stand somewhat as follows:—

	Mds.
Despatched by Mr. Hewitt to end of January	200,000
I put aside grain imported on advances as private traffic, but there is, in addition to the above despatch, imported by local dealers for Government	45,000
To be despatched in three months from 1st February to 1st May, say thirteen weeks, at 100,000 maunds per week ...	1,300,000
May be despatched in May, so as to be placed before the rains, say	300,000
Arranged by Durbhanga estate (a quantity which may be increased)	200,000
TOTAL ...	2,045,000

This gives upwards of 2,000,000 maunds provided before the rains, exclusive of what I may call reserve side routes. These latter are the routes by Monghyr and the Ghugree rivers, which are being tried, and the route by the Bhaugulpore District and Soopole, whence we propose to assist Tirhoot if we can supply anything in excess of the needs of Soopole. I fear, however, we cannot calculate on much from this quarter.

I would, however, make sure that we have in boats taken as far up the rivers as they can get a very considerable supply, which would be ready to go forward to Durbhanga and other points the moment the rivers open, and further supplies would be stored at the river-side stations. In this way I calculated on our being able to supply 2,000,000 of maunds (or half what Sir Richard Temple proposes) before the rains, and say another million of maunds in the early months of the rains, if need be. If the rains are long delayed, we can continue to cart; if they come early, our water arrangements would come into play early.

According to Sir Richard Temple's statements, it appears that the local officers now calculate on forwarding by local carriage much more than I had ventured to calculate on—that is, they have arranged to send forward 160,000 maunds per week. I can only say that if they really can do so, I think they should. It will all be clear gain to get forward as much as we can, as soon as we can. Now that we are a good deal relieved as regards our fears for some other districts, we can, I believe, supply for Tirhoot this amount of grain, or rather the whole 200,000 maunds per week at which Sir Richard Temple puts the present demand. But when we come to the additional supply of another 200,000 per week from 1st April, by means of carriage to be obtained from the North-Western Provinces, I confess I have the greatest doubts of the practicability of the measure. I doubt if the railway could supply so much to Tirhoot with due regard to the needs of other districts. I still more doubt if the enormous supply of carts from the North-Western Provinces, which is calculated on, is a possible thing. I understand that Sir Richard Temple has contemplated obtaining 20,000 carts from the North-Western Provinces. To carry 200,000 maunds per week would require at least so many carts of a description superior to the ordinary ten-maund carts of our districts. We must allow at least ten days for each trip; for more distant depôts a fortnight, besides an allowance for reserve, break-downs, and rest. I am not sure that we have ever in India put 200,000 soldiers into actual active movement in one field of operation at one time. An army of 20,000 carts brought from a distance, with bullocks and attendants and all, would be an astounding undertaking. Whence are they to come? How are they to be brought down? And where are men and bullocks to get food and provender and shelter? And if it were done, this would be for one large district alone without calculating the needs of other districts. My own view is that if from the neighbouring districts of the North-Western Provinces we can get carriage sufficient to assist and secure the immediately adjoining districts of Chumparun and Sarun, we shall do very well.

For Tirhoot I am inclined to think that if local means can do all, or nearly all, that Sir Richard Temple calculates on obtaining from them, we may be satisfied with that supply with only moderate assistance from the outside for special purposes.

Letter from A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—No. 474, *dated February* 13, 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 300A of the 6th instant, with enclosed note of the Lieutenant-Governor (see above) upon a Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the supply of food in the Tirhoot District.

2. These documents have been laid before the Government of India, and the Governor General in Council cannot but express the disappointment which he feels at the local officers having for so long neglected fully to appreciate the requirements of those parts of the country, and thereby occasioned the

postponement to the present time of arrangements for transport which should have been made many weeks ago.

3. Although it may hereafter be found that the estimates now sent forward are somewhat in excess of the actual requirements, yet bearing in mind that those estimates have been made by the local officers who are immediately responsible, and moreover that subsequent information has been received to the effect that a considerable number of people in Nepaul may not improbably come upon the hands of the British Government, the Government of India think that Sir Richard Temple has exercised a wise discretion in recommending that 4,000,000 maunds of grain shall be provided for the district of Tirhoot, and that arrangements should be made for the transport into the interior of a larger quantity, in order that the probability that part of the transport arrangements will break down may be guarded against beforehand.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses some doubt as to the advantage of obtaining the supply of transport for which tenders have been called for from the North-Western Provinces. His Honor will be glad to hear that Mr. Molesworth has reported that a tramway can be constructed from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhanga, and that orders have been given for the immediate commencement of the work. This may perhaps modify the views of Sir Richard Temple as to the requirements for transport after April, when the contracts contemplated will commence; but the Government of India desire to comply with the requisitions which Sir Richard Temple may make after visiting the localities and conferring with the local authorities.

5. From information given by Sir George Campbell to the Viceroy, His Excellency believes that the Government of Bengal have taken measures to comply with Sir Richard Temple's request, that 200,000 maunds a week should be sent from Calcutta for use in the district of Tirhoot.

No. 2.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the organization of relief committees in the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District, dated Camp Durbhanga, February 1, 1874.

Having visited the sub-divisions of Durbhanga and Madhobunee, which in respect to relief operations will probably be the heaviest in the Patna Division, and where the brunt of the whole work will mainly fall, I have to record the following remarks in reference to the general instructions forwarded under cover of Government Circular No. 267—S.R. of the 26th ultimo.

2. Both these sub-divisions will be fit places for carrying out the instructions in Rule I, Part I, for having more than one sub-divisional committee.

3. Under Rule 4, Part I, the Collector should be requested to state the places where he recommends such additional sub-divisional committees to be organized. I consider that there should be one such additional sub-divisional committee established in Alapore, the eastern part of the Madhobunee tract, and one at some point in the south-eastern part of the Durbhanga tract. A selected civil servant should be appointed chairman of each of these additional sub-divisional committees. Thus there would be four sub-divisional committees in the two sub-divisions. If the Commissioner desires it, I will endeavour to obtain the services of any officer whom he may name. But it is essential that the officer should be specially selected for the duty.

4. The sub-committees mentioned in Rule 7, Part I, will be numerous in both these sub-divisions. I regard this as a matter absolutely essential to success. The area of each should be divided into circles. From the centre of each circle the radii should be from 12 to 15 miles long, so that the officer resident at the centre should be able to frequently inspect every village. The officers in question should be European if possible; failing that, however, a selected native may be appointed. I apprehend that ten such circles will be required in Madhobunee, and twelve or thirteen in Durbhanga, inclusive of circles in which the sub-divisional committees might be situate. The determination of the exact number is left to the discretion of the Commissioner.

5. A selected European officer should be appointed on each circle, and house accommodation should be at once provided for him. In Madhobunee

I see that houses belonging to the Durbhanga Raj and other houses may be available; and there also may be some available houses in the Durbhanga Sub-division. But the Commissioner is authorized at once to cause such bungalows as may be necessary to be constructed, so as to be ready by the hot weather.

6. The Commissioner is requested to see at once what staff of officers he has now available for these sub-committees. I shall be happy to apply for the services of any officer (civil, military, or uncovenanted) whom he may name as suited for this important duty.

7. I shall be glad to receive by early date, lists of the gentlemen proposed for the sub-divisional committees and the sub-committees in both these sub-divisions, with the names of the places where their head-quarters are to be.

8. It will be the particular duty of the sub-committee to see to the persons described in Part II, Rule 3, Clause *f*. I fear that many Tirhootia Brahmins will have to be included in this provision, but great caution should be exercised in admitting such persons.

9. I apprehend that in both these sub-divisions many localities will come under the provisions of Clause *g*, which authorizes the sale of food from Government stores. The Commissioner will authorize the Collector to declare the places where, and the date from which, these provisions are to come into effect. It will be desirable to postpone the date as long as may be safely possible.

10. The attention of each sub-committee should be directed to Clause *h*, which provides for the establishment of relief centres in every village where severe distress may exist. It will be an essential part of the officers' duty to frequently inspect such villages, and see that all persons justly needing relief are relieved without any exception.

11. In conclusion, I would impress on the local authorities that, in order to prevent loss of life in these two sub-divisions during the worst season, the organization of the sub-committees with manageable circles is absolutely necessary.

No. 10.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Tirhoot District, dated Camp Seeraha (border of Chumparun and Tirhoot Districts), February 5, 1874.

Having left the district of Tirhoot and entered that of Chumparun, I désire to record the following remarks for the information of the Government of Bengal.

2. I have visited five out of the six sub-divisions of the very extensive district of Tirhoot, the Tajpore Sub-division alone remaining unvisited; and I have had the advantage of meeting all the principal residents of the district, Native and European.

3. All the orders at present required, both as regards inland transport of grain and the formation of sub-divisional relief committees and sub-committees, have been given. But hereafter many supplementary orders will be required as matters advance.

4. The sub-committees throughout the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions especially, and in part of Seetamurree, will be numerous. For each sub-committee a European officer will be needed. Thus, the staff of officers will require strengthening. Upon these points separate communication will be made. But I trust that only such officers may be despatched for famine work as may be selected for their aptitude. Indifferent men, if entrusted with such duty, will prove worse than useless.

5. I am highly satisfied with the district authorities generally in respect to relief business. They evince a zealous and intelligent appreciation of their duties, and merit the confidence of the local Government. To this, however, there is one exception, regarding which I have written separately.

6. The presence of so large a body of indigo planters is a great advantage at the present time, both as respects the taking up of contracts for carriage and the distributing of relief. All the planters whom I meet give me cordial

and unhesitating assurances that they will do their best to help in distributing relief among the villages with which they have connexion or relation.

7. The zemindars seem generally to be exerting themselves in the way of executing village works, tanks, and the like. I have suitably exhorted every zemindar whom I have met.

8. The Durbhanga Raj has done something in the way of supplying grain and in executing relief works. But without any disparagement of its exertions, I do not consider that the Raj has done enough as yet. I have impressed this view on the Raj officers, and asked them to give large help in providing carriage, which I trust they will do.

9. The share which the Raj has taken in constructing roads is very creditable. The Raj Engineer (Mr. Stevens) deserves particular commendation.

10. The district generally is well provided with kucha roads, which is a great advantage at the present time. There is, and will be, difficulty in respect to drinking water for transport cattle along the main lines of road. But water, even in this year of deficient moisture, seems to be tolerably near the surface; so I hope that this difficulty may be remedied.

11. The cattle of the district are as yet in more than ordinarily good condition, having been fed on the stubble of the withered rice crop. The stubble has been largely stacked in most parts of the district. In some parts, however, I am informed that this precaution has been neglected by the people, and that some waste has occurred.

12. The European carriage contractors seem to think that their cartmen will be able to manage to scrape together fodder for the draught bullocks even in the hot weather. Looking to the uncertainty of this, and to the fatal consequences of a failure at the critical season, I am endeavouring to lay in a large supply of reserve fodder at Patna.

13. The golahs, or grain depôts, have been prepared all over the district, and the stocking of them with stores is proceeding rapidly. The eyes of the people seem to be much fixed on these depôts, and anxious inquiries are made as to when the stores will be opened. Every one who so inquires is told that the opening will be postponed so long as may be safely practicable.

14. The best-informed opinions agree that the state and prospects of affairs are much worse now than in 1866 as regards the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions, but better considerably as regards the Seetamurree Sub-division.

15. Several planters of long experience have told me that they had in the early part of the winter despaired of the safety of the lives of people. But when they hear of the arrangements which are being made by Government they express not only confidence, but also surprise at the extent of the efforts. They, however, consider that nothing short of these efforts would suffice to save the district from serious mortality.

16. All European residents express confidence as to a sufficiency of carriage forthcoming. Notwithstanding that, however, I consider it most desirable to introduce a certain amount of carriage from the North-Western Provinces, which I am accordingly endeavouring to arrange.

17. The native merchants and bankers of the district seem to me to be generally deficient in enterprise and public spirit. Few of them, however, are of sufficient calibre for large undertakings. The grain trade of the district has hitherto been one of export only; and it has not caused the growth of large local dealers. The Patna merchants buy up the crop from the producers; the producer sends the grain to Patna, where the merchants take delivery. Such is the description given to me. The large merchants might no doubt import now if they were so minded; but they seem not to see their way to sending rice at a profit: they dread the cost of carriage and the distance of the localities, and they keep their grain at Patna.

18. The universal opinion in Tirhoot seems to be that neither the Patna nor the Tirhoot merchants will, or can, supply in any large degree, the wants of Madhobunee and Durbhanga and of the northern half of Seetamurree. In the rest of the district (about 2,000,000 of population) the neces-

sities will be on a more manageable scale; and there private trade will, I trust, do all, or nearly all, that is required. In the distressed tracts (somewhat over 2,000,000 of population) private trade will do a little, and the people certainly have stocks (though nobody can say exactly how much); and thus full 50 per cent. even of this section of the people may live without Government help. But the other half, numbering full 1,000,000 persons, will be beyond the reach of trade, and will come in, one way or other, on the hands of Government. Such is the result of the best opinions, both official and non-official, collated to the utmost of my care; and upon that basis the general arrangements are being framed. We cannot depend on the case being better than this. It may become worse of course; and with this view in all our arrangements we shall provide a margin for safety.

19. The consequence practically is that we expect to import 4,000,000 of maunds of Government grain into the districts, and to ensure its being carried inland without fail. We try to provide carriage for 5,000,000 The programme of dates, despatches, and consignments is arranged with a view to the 4,000,000 of maunds being laid down in the distressed districts by the middle of June.

20. I think that zemindars may be induced to help their tenants to a large extent; also, that grain dealers in the northern borders of Tirhoot will take advances to obtain grain from Patna. They have been duly invited to do this.

21. I regret that I cannot gather much hope from the district officers of any extensive emigration from Tirhoot to Burmah. Their attention is, however, being given to the subject.

22. The temporary telegraph lines to the relief centres will augment our administrative power. I earnestly hope that the tramway, northwards from Barrh to Durbhanga and Madhobunee, which has just been sanctioned by Government, will prove feasible. If successfully constructed, it will be a great relief to carts and bullocks along the principal line of transport.

23. There will, I fear, be some difficulty about procuring rice in husk (paddy) for seed for next harvest in the distressed districts. I will write further as soon as I am able to arrive at a conclusion on the subject.

24. There has been recently a fall of rain, from half an inch to a full inch, in some of the northern parts of Tirhoot, in which parts the hopes of the people have revived. Some coarse and quick-growing crops are being sown on vacant rice lands wherever this rain has fallen. But there will be no germination unless a further fall of rain shall occur in a fortnight hence. If these inferior crops shall be raised, they will afford some relief from the middle of April to the middle of May.

25. I have not been much beset—not so much as might have been expected—by persons or crowds of persons complaining of scarcity. But hundreds of fresh applicants in many parts of the district are daily coming to the relief works. Though probably there will be no wide-spread distress for some little time to come, yet I am very apprehensive of individual cases of severe distress occurring in every part of the district. It is difficult to be sure of finding out these cases at this stage of affairs. I have, however, addressed a most earnest warning to all the civil officers in the district, and requested them to communicate this warning to all landholders, European and Native.

26. The transit arrangements under Mr. Hewitt at Patna will work well on the completion of the two branch railway lines to the right bank of the Ganges. The country boats for the river crossing will, I believe, prove efficient. The steamers cannot be relied upon by reason of defects in channel. The organization at the two principal ghâts on left bank, Bunkur and Chumpta, is far from completed, but will be soon completed.

Memorandum of subjects settled, and instructions given, by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., in communication with the Commissioner and Collector of Tirhoot at Durbhanga, dated Bankipore, February 5, 1874.

1. Yes; this makes 1,60,000, which agrees with the 50,000 and the 1,10,000 in my Minute of the 31st January.

1. The Collector of Tirhoot is to provide carriage from the resources of his own district for 1,00,000 maunds weekly from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhanga, and for 60,000* maunds weekly from Bunkur Ghât to Seetamurree. This is independent of what the Commissioner may be able to arrange for carrying from Monghyr, or by means of the Government carriage ordered. The work is to be done by contract as far as possible, and the agency of the police is to be in every way discouraged.

* Since increased to 1,00,000.

2. Yes; this is most important. See my separate memorandum. I understand that Mr. Gale, the principal indigo planter in Madhobunee, and a large ticcadar in the Raj villages, has taken a contract for 30,000 maunds a week from Durbhanga to Madhobunee Sub-division. The additional assistants in the Raj are agreed to.

2. The officers of the Durbhanga Raj are to provide for the carriage from Durbhanga of all the grain to be distributed into the interior of the Madhobunee Sub-division. For this purpose, the manager is authorized to take on the services of two additional assistants at Rs. 300 a month each.

3. I have sent my recommendation to Calcutta on the 31st.

3. A tramway, if sanctioned, is to be laid down from Chumpta Ghât *viâ* Dulsingserai and Hyaghât to Durbhanga, and eventually to Madhobunee.

4. Arrangement about Mr. Stevens approved; he is an excellent man.

4. The work is to be placed under Mr. Stevens; and to enable him to carry out his duties efficiently, he is to be appointed Superintending Engineer of the special works and tramway roads.

5. The proposed establishment for him agreed to.

5. He should have under him for this purpose—

1 Executive Engineer	For tramway roads ...	To be paid by Government.
2 Assistant Engineers		
1 Senior Assistant for Purneah roads		
3 Junior Assistants to be lent to the Raj and paid by the Raj for Raj relief works.		

6. I have seen the place. The bund or dam should be put in hand at once. It will improve our water route at once; even if tramway should not be undertaken, it will be essential to roadways. It will be a capital relief work.

6. He is to put a bund across the Keray for the tramway road, which, it is hoped, will also render available a water route *viâ* Rosrah to Hya Ghât.

7. I concur in abandoning the Keray.

7. The water route *viâ* the Koosey, Telgooja, and Keray is to be given up, as it has proved a failure.

8. I have applied for Mr. Magrath's services accordingly.

8. The services of Mr. Magrath are to be applied for to the Government of Bengal, with a view of his being placed in charge of the Madhobunee Sub-division.

9. Along all the routes of grain transport, old tanks, wherever available, are to be dug out, or new tanks or wells made, so as to provide a constant supply of water for transport cattle.

9. The digging out of old tanks along transport routes is most essential for water supply. They will be capital relief works. See my separate memorandum.

10. A lakh of maunds of cotton seed is to be applied for from North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces, and to be stocked along the transport routes.

10. I have applied for the cotton seed to the Government, North-Western Provinces, and the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

11. Officers are authorized to deepen old tanks wherever necessary to provide relief works, and to secure water for the cattle of the district.

11. Yes; most proper. The present will be a good opportunity for permanently improving the tanks of the district by relief labor.

12. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of each main line of grain transport to employ permanent gangs of laborers thereon, and to be held responsible for its being kept in continual repair.

12. Quite proper; I shall be glad to be furnished with names of all officers.

13. Relief centres are to be established in all the afflicted portions of the district; each centre to have a radius of about ten miles, and the sub-divisional officers are at once to construct temporary mat bungalows at each centre. It is estimated that twenty such centres will suffice for Tirhoot, and arrangements will be made for supplying an officer to each.

13. Yes; see my separate memorandum about Madhobunee and Durbhanga relief circles. The immediate construction of the bungalows is authorized.

14. A supply of cotton for weaving, and puttooah for making string, will be applied for, to be distributed in the villages for some relief work.

14. The cotton and puttooah have been applied for through Government, North-Western Provinces.

15. In addition to the transport arrangements already mentioned, the following instructions have been given:

16. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of all the arrangements of each of the receiving stations of Bunkur Ghât and Chumpta Ghât, and mat bungalows are to be put up at once for their accommodation.

15 & 16. Quite approved; but I shall be glad to have names of the officers.

17. Tenders have been invited through the Government, North-Western Provinces, for contractors to carry 1,00,000 maunds weekly from each of the above ghâts into the interior.

17. Yes; I have officially addressed the Government of North-Western Provinces with this view.

18. A reserve of 1,500 carts with bullocks is to be placed at the Commissioner's disposal in case of any failure of contractors' arrangements.

18. I have arranged to make this up to 1,500 carts with bullocks.

19. A supply of 500 bullocks is to be bought at the Berhampore fair, and kept in reserve along the transport lines to assist the contractors in case of their cattle breaking down.

19. I agree to buy the 500 spare bullocks. Commissioner will please arrange.

S. C. BAYLEY.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Patna, No. 563—*S.R., dated Calcutta, February* 10, 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of a Minute, dated the 5th February 1874, recorded by Sir Richard Temple after his visit to Tirhoot (see p. 228). The substance of the orders passed therein have already been communicated to you. I am at the same time to forward printed copies of Sir Richard Temple's Durbhanga Minute of the 1st February, (see p. 227), and of your Note of the points on which Sir Richard Temple passed orders in communication with yourself (see above). These copies will be convenient for communication to your officers.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to observe that, so far as the papers show, the officers of the Durbhanga estate have not as yet done fully their duty towards the people of the estate; and he hopes that they will at once exert themselves to open sufficient village relief works, to organize village relief through village agency, and generally to do the duty lying upon an opulent and powerful landlord. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to be able to say that Mr. Stevens, the Durbhanga Engineer, seems to have done his duty very fully, and to merit the special acknowledgments of Government.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that you and your officers are taking very early and energetic action upon that part of Sir Richard Temple's orders which concerns—

(*a*) the collection of fodder on traffic routes;

(*b*) the maintenance of really passable and serviceable roads and ferries on the grain routes: the enormous pressure of carriage (nearly 1,000 carts a day) makes this a matter of the very highest importance;

(*c*) the promotion of private importation from Patna by means of advances to petty dealers;

(*d*) the methodical organization of arrangement at Barrh, Futwa Ghât station, Chumpta Ghât, and Bunkur Ghât. Where there is so constant a stream of traffic and so much loading and unloading, very strict and careful method will be necessary.

4. In regard to officers for relief centres, a telegram has to-day gone to you, and the Lieutenant-Governor has informed you that two more civil servants are expected from the North-Western Provinces. If need be, he will apply for additional military officers; and you are authorized to employ European factory assistants, or to appoint approved natives, to be temporary famine inspectors, on the footing of deputy collectors or sub-deputy. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that he cannot send you many more European officers from Bengal, and he apprehends that ordinary Bengalees, unaccustomed to Behar, and of no special proved aptitude, would not be useful on work of this kind. Sir George Campbell is glad to know, and to acknowledge, that very many planters are offering their aid gratuitously to the relief committees.

5. With reference to Sir Richard Temple's supplementary Minute of the 6th instant, copy herewith forwarded (see p. 236), I am to observe that you have authority to procure for the two executive engineers of Tirhoot all the local assistance you can; and if the Public Works Department can give any more subordinates for Tirhoot, it will at once do so.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me also to invite your attention to the condition of the relief works in South Tirhoot, and to enquire whether the Public Works Department arrangments there are sufficient.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, No. 564—S.R., dated Calcutta, February 9, 1874.

I am directed to submit copies of the papers marginally noted received from the Patna Division. Sir Richard Temple's orders and instructions, for the completeness of which the Lieutenant-Governor is very much obliged, have been communicated to the local officers. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor has considered it right to draw special attention to the extreme urgency of some of the points Sir Richard Temple has so properly taken up.

Minutes, dated 1st and 5th February, by Sir Richard Temple, (see pp. 227—228).
Note of points settled at Durbhanga by Sir Richard Temple with the Commissioner of Patna, (see p. 231).
Supplementary Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated 6th February, (see p. 236).
Copy of letter from the Bengal Government to the Commissioner of Patna, (see above, letter No 563 S. R.)

2. There is one point on which the Lieutenant-Governor desires to solicit that orders may issue and action may be taken at once, and that is in regard to the 4 miles of double line tramway required at Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barrh. I am to solicit that if the major scheme of a tramway from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhanga be set aside, immediate orders may issue for making and stocking with wagons (the latter is as important as the former) 4 miles of double line from Chumpta Ghât across the sands to such terminus as the local officers may direct.

No. 11.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the impending scarcity in the Nepaulese Terai Districts, dated Motihari, February 5, 1874.

The Resident at Nepaul (Mr. C. Girdlestone) having forwarded to me copy of his letter No. 27C of the 1st February 1874, addressed to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, regarding the impending scarcity in the Nepaulese Terai Districts which march along with British territory, I desire at once to state my view on a matter which may at any moment become urgent.

2. On approaching the northern frontier of the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts, I was concerned to find that between our border and the Terai there is generally some narrow strip of varying breadth of Nepaul territory, with villages much in the same circumstances and condition as the distressed British Sub-divisions. I do not know what the population of the strip may be, but I see that in one sub-division of it (Jaleysur) the Resident puts the population at 225,000 souls; and possibly the adjoining sub-division of Sirha may have a similar number. Thus it may be that in contact with our distressed people we shall have half a million of equally distressed Nepaulese. The circumstance constitutes an aggravation of our difficulties, which must be met.

3. On the civil officers' inquiring whether Nepaulese subjects applying in our territory for work or relief must be treated in the same manner as British subjects, I replied that they must.

4. But the larger question remains,—How are the Nepaul authorities to get grain which they may purchase in India conveyed upwards from the northern or left bank of the Ganges? Of course they may get carriage locally if they can. But practically they can hardly do so, when all available carriage is engaged for our grain transport. In this way I apprehend little or nothing will be done.

5. One thing the Nepaul authorities could, I should think, do, which is this: Their distressed strip of territory has resources in carts and bullocks. They could collect such carriage and send it down to the left bank of the Ganges to fetch grain. The British authorities would give due protection to such convoys, deputing officials to take care of them, so that the carriage might not be detained or seized for other purposes. Even this plan, however, would not probably bring all the grain that might be needed.

6. Therefore, I think we must be prepared to let the Nepaul authorities have a portion of the grain supplies which we shall be sending to the north part of Tirhoot, on payment of the cost which may have been incurred in purchase, transport, and the like by the British Government. I should be happy to arrange this in negotiation with the Resident of Nepaul.

7. It will be found that we cannot properly refuse succour to the distressed people beyond our frontier, who cannot obtain supplies save through British jurisdiction.

8. Also, if any starving or sick Nepaulese present themselves at our hospitals or relief-houses, we must, I think, admit them.

9. At the same time I think that the Resident would do well to impress on the Nepaulese Government the wrong and the mistake they commit, in prohibiting free trade in grain between their districts and ours.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, No. 572 *S.R., dated February* 10, 1874.

I am directed to submit copy of a Minute (see above) recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the threatened scarcity in that part of Nepaul which lies below the Himalayas and to the north of the British districts of Tirhoot and Chumparun. The Lieutenant-Governor has not seen Mr. Girdlestone's report of the 1st February, and he feels unable to advise any particular course until he knows more exactly what the threatened tracts are, where they lie, what is their population, and what their condition. He can therefore only submit Sir Richard Temple's Minute for the orders of the Government of India.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires, however, to add that though at the beginning of the scarcity there was some alarm about Nepaul and the demands its people might make on the resources of our districts, yet recent reports from Tirhoot and Chumparun have contained no suggestion that considerable quantities of grain have been carried from North Behar into Nepaul. On the other hand, the last Tirhoot narrative stated that above 2,00,000 maunds of maize had come from the Nepaul Terai into Seetamurree, but that the importation had now stopped. From some other quarters fear has been expressed that exportations to Nepaul might affect the food-supplies of North Behar, but, as above stated, the official reports do not give any facts or opinions in support of such an apprehension.

3. On the general question of assisting the Nepaulese, the Lieutenant-Governor would submit his opinion that we cannot—on relief works, or at relief centres, or at relief hospitals—make any distinction between British subjects and people from Nepaul, but we must treat all who come for aid alike as well as we can.

Letter from A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department No. 462, *dated February* 12, 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 572 S.R., of the 10th instant, (see above) with enclosed Minute from Sir Richard Temple, regarding the threatened scarcity in that portion of the Nepaul territory which borders on Tirhoot and Chumparun.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that the Governor General in Council has been in communication with Mr. Girdlestone, the Resident in Nepaul, on the subject of the assistance which may have to be rendered to the Nepaulese Government to meet the distress which is apprehended in the above-mentioned districts.

3. The Government of India have offered the Nepaulese Government 1,000 tons of rice at cost price; but, as Sir Richard Temple very truly observes, the difficulty lies mainly in arranging for its transport from the railway to Nepaul. Mr. Girdlestone has accordingly been directed to place himself in communication with Sir Richard Temple, and, in his communications with the Nepaulese Government, to be guided by the instructions that he will receive from him.

4. The Government of India entirely concur with the Lieutenant-Governor and with Sir Richard Temple, that no distinction should be made between British subjects and subjects of Nepaul, if the latter should apply for relief in British territory, and that we should do what we can to assist the distressed people beyond our border with supplies. No interference therefore should be permitted with the free transit of food-grains on private account from British territories into Nepaul.

5. At the same time it is the obvious duty of the Nepaulese Government to provide as far as possible for the relief of their people—a duty which, from the information received from Mr. Girdlestone, that Government seem entirely to recognize.

6. As the arrangements will be carried out by Sir Richard Temple in communication with Mr. Girdlestone and the Nepaulese Government, no further orders can with advantage be given by the Government of India. I am to request that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will furnish Sir Richard Temple with a copy of this letter.

No. 12.

Further Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Tirhoot District, dated Motihari, February 6, 1874.

As a supplement to my Minute No. 10 of yesterday's date, (see p. 228) I desire to add that I am highly satisfied with the condition, progress, and prospects of the local relief works in the Durbhanga and Seetamurree Sub-divisions, but not so as regards the Madhobunee Sub-division. In Durbhanga the Raj Engineer (Mr. Stevens) and the sub-divisional officer (Mr. Macdonnell) are fully alive to the necessity of the case; the same remark applies to Mr. O'Reilly and Sergeant O'Farrell in Seetamurree. Some relief works are planned in Alapore, the worst part of Madhobunee. The Commissioner and the Collector have proceeded thither, and also Mr. Anderson, the Executive Engineer of the new, or northern, division of Tirhoot, and I expect very shortly to hear of the relief works being set on foot there.

2. The formation of a new Public Works Division there will be very beneficial. There remains the southern, or Mozufferpore, executive division, in which the signs of activity are less manifest.

3. I have ordered temporary bungalows to be immediately erected at every place where the European president of a *sub*-committee is to be placed. As there will be many such sub-committees in each of the distressed sub-divisions, several bungalows will have to be erected, while in several places accommodation already exists.

No. 13.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Chumparun District, dated Camp Bettiah, February 8, 1874.

Having visited the Chumparun District, travelling through it from east to west, and proceeding *viâ* Bettiah to Ramnuggur, I have to record the following remarks regarding the quantity of grain which ought to be conveyed into the interior of the district by the 15th of June next, and the means of conveying it.

2. First, as to the quantity: that depends of course on the number of persons who may be expected to need assistance in some shape or other.

3. Mr. Kean, the Collector, after carefully conferring with me, makes the following statement. :—

Adapore.—This is a great rice-growing thannah; *the greater portion of the crops failed.* The cold weather crops (rubbee) are not much grown. Indian-corn, however, is grown; there will be a 4-anna crop. The poppy is said to be good, but the rice crop having almost totally failed, and there being no rubbee or very little, I think at least 30 per cent. of the population would come on our hands in this thannah, which, as far as my present information goes, is the worst thannah in the Sudder Sub-division.

Dhaka.—In this thannah also the rice crop failed, but it produced an 8-anna crop of *makai* and the rubbee will be about a 6-anna crop. The poppy is also fair. I think 25 per cent. for this thannah.

Motihari.—In this thannah the rice crop was not so entirely a failure. The rubbee and poppy are also comparatively good. I would calculate 20 per cent. for this thannah.

Gobindgunge.—The same as Motihari.

Kessuria and Mudobun.—Mr. Weekes is making minute inquiries regarding the condition of these two thannahs. The poppy is said to be a failure, and lately unfavorable accounts of the rubbee have been received. The *rahar* has also been damaged by frost. A large crop of *kodo* and *makai* was gathered in these thannahs, perhaps 30 per cent.

Bettiah.—The accounts from this thannah have been all along comparatively good, *i. e.*, no such entire failure of crops as in some other thannahs has been reported. I would rank this thannah with the adjoining thannahs of Gobindgunge and Motihari, and calculate 20 per cent.

Bugaha.—In this thannah distress will no doubt be greatly felt; it ranks as the second worst thannah in the district. I would calculate 35 or 40 per cent.

Lourya —This is undoubtedly the worst thannah in the district. The rice crop failed entirely, and there is no rubbee or poppy to speak of. I would calculate 50 per cent.

This calculation would be—

Adapore	114,561	...	..	30 per cent.	= 34,350
Dhaka	230,484	...	...	25 „	= 57,600
Motihari	134,621	...	...	20 „	= 26,920
Gobindgunge	141,986	...	...	20 „	= 28,380
Kessuria	150,863	...	...	30 „	= 45,240
Mudobun	84,873	..	.	30 „	= 25,440
Bettiah	289,522	...	...	20 „	= 57,900
Bugaha	114,879	...	...	40 „	= 45,920
Lourya	170,760	...	...	50 „	= 83,350
					405,200

In round numbers	400,000	seers.
At ¾ths of a seer, deduct ¼ths	100,000	„
	300,000	„
For two months full	600,000	„
„ three „ half	450,000	„
„ two „ one-third	200,000	„
Total ...	1,250,000	„
Dividing by 40 seers ...	31,250	maunds.
	30	
	937,500	
Adding average of seven months for one month	133,928	
TOTAL ...	1,071,428	„

4. Mr. T. Gibbon, the Manager of the estates of the Rajah of Bettiah, a gentleman of great knowledge and experience, makes a somewhat more favorable statement as follows:—

Adapore ...	20 per cent.	Of the population will require assistance in some shape.
Dhaka ...	15 „	
Motihari ...	10 „	
Gobindgunge ...	10 „	
Kessuria ...	15 „	
Mudobun...	20 „	
Bettiah ...	20 „	
Bugaha ...	50 „	
Lourya ...	50 „	

In all, 316,000 persons will require assistance at one time or another. I anticipate—

		Persons average per diem.
One-fourth	in February, *i.e.*	79,000
Half	in March	158,000
Three-fourths	in April	237,000
Full	in May	316,000
„	in June	316,000
„	in July	316,000
Three-fourths	in August	227,000
One-fourth	in September	79,000
	TOTAL	1,738,000

or on an average per diem 217,000 persons for eight months, at three-fourths of a seer per head, requiring 4,068 maunds a day (about), or 976,320 maunds in all.

5. The worst part of all is the Ramnuggur estate, chiefly comprising the Lourya Thannah. Mr. Howe, the civil officer there, expects that 50 or even 60 per cent. of the people may come on his hands at the worst season.

6. Mr. Vertannes, the Executive Engineer of the Gunduck embankment, expects to have 20,000 laborers at work in the hot season.

7. Mr. Cooper, the Deputy Opium Agent, also a gentleman of great experience, considered that in the thannahs of Kessuria and Mudobun the assistance required might prove much greater than that above indicated.

8. In general terms it may be said that the rice crop is the staple product of that part of the district which may be defined by the Nepaul frontier on the north, the Gunduck river on the west, the Bagmuttee on the east, and on the south by a line drawn straight on the map from Bugaha on the Gunduck to Dhaka Ramchundra; that crop has failed, and the main food of the people there has been lost. In the rest of the district the spring crops are very poor. Besides these, the people have had only the *bhadoi* or Indian-corn, which yielded but half the average, except towards the southern border, where the *bhadoi* crop was good.

9. These calculations are only anticipations which may fail to be realized. Still they represent the best opinions that can be formed; and such opinions must be acted on now, otherwise the opportunity of providing the supplies will slip away.

10. On the whole, I consider that 1,000,000 of maunds of Government grain must be imported into this district by the 15th June, that is, before the setting in of the rains. It remains to be seen how this requirement is to be met.

11. The transport agency at Patna, under Mr. Hewitt, have already sent on 215,000 maunds to arrive in the district by the 15th February.

12. The Collector is now concluding an arrangement with European contractors of proved means and ability to cart not less than 50,000 maunds a week from Bunkur Ghât, opposite Patna, after the 15th February, which would give 200,000 maunds a month for three and half months from 15th February to 1st June, or 700,000 maunds.

13. For the works on the Gunduck embankment 24,000 maunds have arrived by the Gunduck River, and some further quantity is still in boats on the river. I believe that the total by river route will not exceed 50,000 maunds.

14. Thus the total Government provision may be set down at 975,000 maunds.

15. Then 150,000 maunds are being brought into the district by the Manager of the Bettiah estates, and by the planters resident in that portion of the district, which will come by the river route; and this supply will help to support those who might otherwise come on the hands of Government. If this quantity be considered together with the Government provision, it will be seen that there is a margin to ensure safety.

16. I believe that the Government provision as above set forth will suffice, inasmuch as after the 15th May the Gunduck will begin to rise, and will afford navigation to the neighbourhood of the most distressed localities; so that if the land carriage were to prove insufficient, it could be supplemented by water carriage, or if further supplies were still required, they could be obtained by river route.

17. I consider that the preparedness, which I have myself seen, of the transport arrangements, even to the remotest localities of distress, is creditable to the administration of the Chumparun District; and the Collector informs me that this is in a large degree due to Mr. T. Gibbon and to Mr. R. Lethbridge, both of whom will doubtless render still further public services during the coming crisis.

18. I believe that the arrangements of the carrying contracts which I have inspected are worthy of the confidence of Government.

19. I have instructed the Collector to have the transport routes examined specially with a view to excavating tanks for watering the cattle.

20. I have accordingly to recommend that 50,000 maunds a week from 15th February may be sent forward by railway from Howrah for the service of the Chumparun District.

No. 15.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Chumparun District, dated Camp Hutwa, February 10, 1874.

Having left the Chumparun District, I have to record briefly some general remarks regarding the condition of affairs there in reference to scarcity and relief.

2. There have recently been two falls of rain, amounting in various places to an inch or 1½ inch, even to 2 inches. The prospect of the spring harvest is much improved thereby. Much land is also being sown with such crops as *cheena* and *moong*, which will yield grain by the end of April and afford some food-supply by May. This supply may help to replenish the empty grain markets for some short period, perhaps for a month, some say for more than a month. There is much uncertainty as to the yield of this supplementary crop, which is sown largely when other crops fail and but little in prosperous years. But it will afford some relief, and it will abridge somewhat the period of work. The recent rainfall after the long drought has raised the spirits of the people, and caused despondency to give way to undue hopefulness. More thoughtful people, however, advise me that the general situation, as previously apprehended, is not materially changed.

3. I believe that our precautions and preparations should go on without alteration or relaxation.

4. The local grain trade may do something to meet the demands of the central part of the district. But it is limited in its operations, and it will do little or nothing for the supply of those tracts along the north and north-western borders of the district which have lost their sole support from the withering of the rice crop. Neither at Motecharee nor at Bettiah (the two principal places of the district) could I find even one grain dealer of any capacity or position.

5. The district authorities do not give a favorable account of the public spirit and disposition of the zemindars. I have not heard of one who has behaved creditably. Three of the principal zemindars appear indeed to have evinced a disposition the reverse of satisfactory.

6. On the other hand, the Rajah of Bettiah personally manifests a desire to behave well. His European Manager (Mr. T. M. Gibbon, an able and excellent man) has arranged to import 150,000 maunds of grain for the Bettiah estate and will arrange other measures of relief. But the Rajah's treasury is impoverished and his finances are embarrassed, and I by no means undertake to say that the above measures, though *per se* considerable, are really commensurate with the moral obligations of the Rajah or with the size of his estates.

7. The Rajah of Ramnuggur, the owner of a fine zemindaree with a population of at least 150,000 souls, was reported to me as having done nothing. I visited Ramnuggur and admonished the Rajah. He afterwards came to Bettiah and agreed to import grain, to give advances to his ryots, and to stand security for advances to be made to them by Government. If he fulfils this agreement, I may yet be able to write in favorable terms regarding him.

8. I have met most of the European indigo planters who are so numerous in this district, and have received from them cordial assurances of help in the distribution of relief.

9. In the eastern part of the district many complaints of scarcity and distress were made to me by villagers. But in the western part of the district, where matters are so much more threatening, the people preserved a patient and uncomplaining demeanour, which can, I think, be attributed only to the sight of the Government preparations and the conviction that succour is at hand.

10. All along the northern frontier there will be very serious scarcity, beginning at the eastern corner and becoming worse and worse westwards till the north-western corner is reached, where the failure of food-supply is utter, and where the case will be formidable in extent and in degree.

11. In consultation with the Collector I have arranged the additional sub-divisional committees and the sub-committees, with a view to the effective administration of relief in these tracts, and have authorized the immediate erection of temporary accommodation for the European officers. There will be three sub-divisional committees and five sub-committees, all under the district committee, which has been duly formed.

12. Some of the European superintendence required is already available. If more European officers are found to be needed, I will make a further communication.

13. The European officers in the Ramnuggur sub-divisional committee (they will be four in number, including Mr. Howe, of the Civil Service) will be resident all through the rains in a very isolated and insalubrious situation. This cannot be avoided, and they are fully aware that, as regards famine in Chumparun, the officers at Ramnuggur occupy the post of honor. I am in communication with Dr. Francis, Deputy Inspector General, regarding the provision of medical aid.

14. Relief works are being commenced in every part of the district: these chiefly consisted of roads. The Collector had doubts as to whether village tanks could be regarded as relief works. I have ruled they are to be so treated, and that the excavation and clearing out of old village tanks afforded the very best means of relief.

15. These works were largely attended up to the day when the rain fell. Since that day the attendance has fallen off, as the people have gone away to sow the supplementary crops—*cheena*, *moong*, &c.

16. The new executive constituted in this district, under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, will prove very useful in the supervision of relief works. I met the new Executive Engineer (Mr. Murray) of Motihari and explained to him what was expected of his department. I authorized the construction of a temporary office building for him. He complains of the want of good overseers. This complaint is, however, universal, and I fear that there will be a deficiency. However I shall communicate further with the Superintending Engineer on the subject when I return to Patna.

17. Incendiarism, robbery, and crimes, which usually break out in times of scarcity, are reported as becoming rife along the northern border. I have, therefore, requested the Collector to entertain additional police up to the strength of 80 men, including petty officers, to watch incendiarism and to guard the grain depôts.

18. Many representations have been made regarding the danger of the seed-grain being used up for food, and the necessity of seed-grain being stored by Government. The matter is one of some difficulty ; but after consideration I hope to arrive at some definite conclusion regarding it.

19. It seems probable that the sale of Government grain in the Ramnuggur tract cannot be much longer delayed. I have instructed the district authorities on the spot to adopt this measure on any day when they find that safety demands its adoption. Meanwhile I have authorized them to advance grain to ryots on security being given either on the Rajah's security, or on the hypothecation of the ryot's land with the Rajah's consent ; also to pay the relief work laborers in kind.

20. The utmost vigilance has been enjoined on all the district authorities regarding the immediate relief of cases of individual distress.

21. There are no signs yet of the temporary telegraph lines from Mozufferpore *viâ* Motihari to Bettiah and Ramnuggur. I have again urged the need of expedition on the attention of Major Mallock, who has been deputed by the Director General to supervise the work.

22. I have inspected the new Gunduck embankment on the east or left bank of that river. It will be very beneficial as protecting the rice lands from excessive inundation. This may be inferred from the experience of the long existing embankments on the western or right bank. I am not equally sure of the need for the irrigation channel proposed to run marching with the embankment. Perhaps the money appropriated for the channel might be better spent in other ways. If the channel be not made however, it will be necessary to make sluices and openings in the embankments to let out water for irrigation. The embankment itself will give employment to 20,000 laborers during the worst season along a line of 70 miles in length.

23. I have inquired particularly into the supply of boats and the navigable channel of the Gunduck. This navigation is regarded by the Chumparun authorities as a valuable resource. It is a resource of some importance; but the boats are not numerous nor capacious, and the current is strong in the rainy season, and my information is not such as to warrant the abandonment of our land carriage on this account.

24. My Minute No. 13 of the 8th February (see p. 236) shows that we expect to have to assist 400,000 persons in some shape or other during the worst season, and that we have arranged to import one million of maunds into the interior of the district by the beginning of June, to which may be added the 150,000 imported by the Rajah of Bettiah.

25. I had the satisfaction of seeing that the carriage contractors have got their system into effective working order. I saw strings of Government grain carts wending their way among the villages, especially among the tracts of the remote Ramnuggur estates. This is indeed exactly what I desired to see.

26. The local resources in carts and bullocks are large. The contractors are able to obtain without any difficulty 6,000 carts for the performance of their contract. Much of the local carriage, however, will cease to be available as soon as the indigo manufacturing season commences in June.

27. At present the contractors are taking delivery of the grain at Bunkur Ghât, opposite Patna, and follow the route *viâ* Mozufferpore and Bettiah to Ramnuggur. I have, however, approved of their trying for a part of their contract an alternative route *viâ* the ghât opposite Dinapore, and thence through the Sarun District to Gobindgunge on the Gunduck, and thence to Bettiah. This will relieve the pressure now beginning to be extreme at Bunkur Ghât.

28. I trust that it will not be necessary to resort to the North-Western Provinces for carriage for the service of the Chumparun District.

29. The contractors state that at present the route is well supplied with water, save in one place to which the attention of the Collector has been drawn. Instructions have, however, been repeated to the effect that tanks are to be excavated at the halting-places.

30. The Collector and his officers evince every anxiety to understand and carry out the instructions they receive in reference to the impending scarcity.

No. 16.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., regarding the supply of cotton and hemp for relief work in the Tirhoot District, dated Camp Hutwa, February 10, 1874.

As an additional supplement to my Minute No. 10, dated Seeraha, February 5th, (see p. 228) I have to record that after consultation with the Commissioner and other officers at Durbhanga, I telegraphed on the 1st February to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, requesting them to have 10,000 maunds of raw cotton for spinning and weaving, and the same quantity of patwa, or hemp, for making string, sent to the care of Mr. Hewitt at Bankipore. The Commissioner will arrange for its distribution.

2. It is desirable that there should be no want of materials for such work as those distressed persons who are incapable of hard bodily labor are still able to undertake.

No. 17.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on additional medical establishments for the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts, dated Camp Hutwa, February 10, 1874.

I have proposed, or shall propose, the following additional medical establishment for the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts.

2. In Madhobunee Sub-division there will be ten sub-committee circles, including the sub-divisional committee; and twelve sub-committee circles in Durbhanga Sub-division, including the sub-divisional circle. In Seetamurree Sub-division there will be six sub-committees; in Tajpore Sub-division one sub-committee; in Mozufferpore Sub-division one sub-committee, exclusive of the sub-divisional circles.

3. For each sub-committee circle I shall propose the appointment of a native doctor and a compounder. According to that then there would be required in the Tirhoot District an additional establishment as follows :—

	Native doctors.	Compounders.
Madhobunee	10	10
Durbhanga	12	12
Seetamurree	6	6
Tajpore	1	1
Mozufferpore	1	1
TOTAL ...	30	30

4. I have proposed that an Assistant Surgeon be posted to the Tirhoot District to take charge of the civil duties at Mozufferpore while Dr. Gayer, the Civil Surgeon, is on circuit inspecting the medical arrangements of the sub-committees.

5. In Chumparun District there will be seven sub-committees, exclusive of the sub-divisional committees, for each of which I shall propose a native doctor and a compounder. According to that the following additional establishment would be required :—

Native doctors	7
Compounders	7
TOTAL ...	14

6. I shall also propose that a competent medical officer be posted to the Chumparun District, in subordination to Dr. Cullen, to take charge of the civil duties at Motihari while the Civil Surgeon may be on tour inspecting the medical arrangements of the sub-committees.

7. I earnestly hope that the Medical Department may be able to comply with these requisitions, having regard to the exigencies of the coming scarcity.

8. A copy of this Minute is furnished to Dr. Francis, Deputy Inspector General, for information.

No. 18.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Sarun District, dated Chupra, February 12, 1874.

Having travelled through the Sarun District from north to south, and having visited the western portions of the Hutwa Estates where the distress is likely to be worst, I have to record the following remarks.

2. In the southern or lower portion of the district, on the left bank of the Ganges and Gogra, the crops are in fair condition. This comprises the thannahs of Digwara, Chupra, Manjlee, and Durowlee, with a total population of 680,000 souls.

3. In the rest or upper portion of the district, of which the population amounts to 1,380,000 souls, the crops are more or less deficient. The Indian-corn did not yield more than six annas, or half the average; the rice crop (which covers one-fourth of the whole cultivation) failed almost entirely; the rubbee crops did not, until recently, promise to yield more than two or three annas, or one-fourth of the average. They have, however, been much improved by the recent rain, and now a 6 anna yield is expected.

4. In some localities, however, in the Berowlee and Bussuntpore Thannahs near the Gunduck, the failure is worse than that just described; and in some places, such as Booreh and Afrat, to the west of Hutwa, where there have been three unfavorable years in succession, or where the people mainly depended on the rice crop, a more severe degree of distress is to be anticipated than elsewhere.

5. On the whole, the deficiency of the food-supply is serious in that portion which has a population of 1,380,000 souls. The district, too, is densely peopled (778 to the square mile), and the surrounding districts, Chumparun, Tirhoot, and Goruckpore, are also distressed. Thus supplies can only be drawn from the south, or from distant districts to the west.

6. It is satisfactory to note that this district has many grain marts and many grain dealers of substance and enterprise. Such places are Meergunj, Goorthnce, Siswan, Maharajgunj, Roopun, Chap, and Revelgunj; and the Collector (Mr. J. S. Drummond) informs me that the importations of grain into these and similar places have been large of late, and that, too, from long distances.

7. In this important respect the Sarun District contrasts favorably with the Chumparun and Tirhoot Districts.

8. Already, however, there are signs of distress throughout the upper part of the district. On the 10th February there were nearly 70,000 persons employed on relief works. Of these a large proportion consisted of women and others who would not ordinarily be resorting to labor of this sort.

9. The works consist partly of tanks, but chiefly of roadways which are being made or repaired all over the district in every direction. Captain May, the Excutive Engineer, informs me that he has now 900 miles under operations. It is represented to me, however, that there will be difficulty in finding continuous work for so many people.

10. On the strong recommendation of the Collector and the District Engineer, I have ordered that the clearing out of the old inundation channels for irrigation, which run through the most distressed localities, be included in relief works. The Collector will arrange with Captain May accordingly to commence the clearing out immediately.

11. The district authorities appear confident regarding the resources of the district in carts and bullocks for the transport of the Government grain. Their view is fully confirmed by what I learnt from Mr. Donald Reid, the manager of the Sadowa indigo concern. There are native chowdries (headmen) at Revelgunj and other marts, through whom the Collector obtains carriage without any difficulty, and without resorting to the police or such like agency.

12. After the middle of May the Gunduck will become navigable to the north-east part of the district. The Gogra also, with one of its affluents, will carry boats right up to the western part of the district.

13. I have now to consider briefly what is the number of persons for whom we should be prepared to afford assistance in some shape or other, and what is the quantity of grain which we should require, and what are the means of transport.

14. The Hutwa Estates comprise the most distressed localities. I have carefully consulted Mr. Hodgkinson, the manager of the estates (which are under the Court of Wards). He thinks that at the worst season, which will last from the 1st June to the 15th September (when the new Indian-corn will be coming in), or 3½ months, there may be 80,000 persons needing assistance in some shape or other, and the Collector informs me that this estimate is not too high. There are now 9,000 persons receiving assistance, and the number will gradually rise till it attains its maximum about the beginning of June. The population of the Hutwa Estates amounts to 400,000 souls.

15. I consider that at least 180,000 maunds ought to be stored within Hutwa limits by the beginning of June.

16. Mr. Hodgkinson has provided 120,000 maunds by purchases from Bengal and elsewhere, some of which has arrived, the rest being on its way. The funds for this have been furnished from the Hutwa Raj treasury. Mr. Hodgkinson states that that treasury is not at present able to advance more, and he asks for a loan of a lakh of rupees from Government, under the rules, for purchasing wheat, barley, and Indian-corn from Patna or from the North-West. I shall authorize the loan being made accordingly, and request him to endeavour to obtain the grain from the Patna market which is said to be somewhat overstocked. If he fails to obtain it at Patna, we can resort to the North-West. This loan will suffice to bring up the provision from 120,000 maunds to 150,000 maunds. In order to make up the 180,000 maunds there remain 30,000 maunds to be despatched from the Government stores to be received by rail at the Arrah Station, for which quantity a requisition must be duly made to Government. This grain will be advanced to the Hutwa Raj, and we shall expect Mr. Hodgkinson to use his best endeavours to recover the value for Government.

17. As regards the rest of the district, the Collector considers that provision should be made for 200,000 persons. The number of those now receiving relief is 60,000, which may rise gradually till it reaches its maximum at the end of May, remaining high till September. According to that I consider, after consulting Mr. Drummond, that there ought to be a provision of not less than 500,000 maunds to be carried into the interior of the district by the 15th June, after which date water carriage will be to some extent available.

18. Already 250,000 maunds have been allotted by the local Government from time to time; of which, 130,000 maunds have arrived, the rest being in course of transit, thus leaving 250,000 maunds additional to be provided. I have accordingly to recommend that the despatches by railway of grain for the Sarun District may be regulated accordingly.

19. For inland transit the Collector is confident that the carriage of his district will suffice, and from what I have seen I am disposed to accept this view.

20. The Collector, however, particularly desires that all the grain for the Sarun District may be sent to the Arrah Station, where he has an officer of his own stationed, and where he can conveniently manage the crossing of the Ganges. He represents that he has tried the plan of obtaining some of his supplies from the Patna Station, and that embarrassing delays always resulted, save when a steamer was employed for the purpose exclusively. This matter is indeed of great importance, not only to secure the efficiency of the service for the Sarun District, but also to relieve the already overburdened service at Patna.

21. I have accordingly to ask that all the consignments of Government grain for the Sarun District may be made to the Arrah Station.

22. A district committee for relief should be formed at Chupra for the whole district of Sarun, which would, however, administer relief direct to the country round Chupra. There will be a sub-divisional committee at Sewan under the sub-divisional officer. This committee will administer relief to the

whole sub-division, excepting the Hutwa Estates. If, as distress develops itself, the Collector finds it desirable to form another committee towards the northern border, he can do so. For the Hutwa Estates, Mr. Hodgkinson will be in the position of a sub-divisional committee.

23. The indigo planters and the principal zemindars will, I understand, be willing to assist in the distribution of relief among the villages in their neighbourhood. The indigo planters have taken some advances, under the rules, from Government for importing grain, and some of the zemindars have done the same. But the Collector is not able to make a very favorable report of the efforts of the principal zemindars on this occasion.

24. The Collector desires to make advances to ryots to sustain them through the coming trouble, and I have authorized him to do so wherever the zemindar will stand security or allow the land to be hypothecated, or where the ryot has property to pledge, or where under the circumstances the Collector considers there is a reasonable degree of certainty of the advance being repaid.

25. I have to state in conclusion that the Collector, Mr. J. S Drummond, evinces much care and thoughtfulness, and entirely appreciates the duties which devolve on him in respect to the scarcity. Mr. Hodgkinson, the Superintendent of Hutwa, is an able and excellent officer, and is sure to meet the impending trouble in a vigorous and efficient manner.

Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department,—No. 56, *dated Bankipore, February* 12, 1874.

I am directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a Minute No. 18, dated February 12th (see above), recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the state of affairs in the Sarun District, and to express a hope that the arrangements therein mentioned may meet with His Honor's approval.

2. Sir Richard especially begs that Mr. Toynbee may at once be instructed to despatch 5,000 maunds of grain a day for the Sarun District to the Arrah Station, instead of to any other station on the East Indian Railway, and to continue despatching this daily supply until the required amount of 500,000 maunds (of which some 130,000 have been received) shall have been acknowledged by the Collector of Sarun. At Arrah the grain will be taken charge of by Major Jackson, on special duty, for the Collector of Sarun. Arrangements have been made for its transport to the ghât on the Ganges near Doorcegunj, where Mr. C. E. F. Tonnerre will take it over also for the Collector, and from whence it will be conveyed to Chupra and other places for distribution in the interior of the district.

3. The object of this proposal is to relieve the pressure at the Patna Station, and to enable the Collector of Sarun to receive his consignments in the manner most convenient to him.

N. B.—Mr. Toynbee is sending 2,500 bags (5,000) daily to Arrah for Sarun as an emergent indent, Major Jackson having telegraphed that carts had been arranged for this quantity. The quantity is cut from the Patna Ghât allotment pending orders.

No. 19.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the appointment of a Superintending Engineer for relief works in the Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun Districts, dated Barrh, February 15, 1874.

I am very desirous that a Superintending Engineer should be appointed for the relief works in the trans-Gangetic portion of the Patna Commissionership, which works are chiefly situate in the districts north of the Ganges—namely, Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun.

2. As regards the relief, the Tirhoot District is divided into two Executive Divisions—Northern and Southern. Of the Northern Division, newly constituted, the Executive Engineer is Mr. Anderson, with Lieutenant Wright and Mr. O'Farrell as Assistants; of the Southern Division the Executive Engineer is Mr. Urquhart, with Captain Landon and Captain Mander as Assistants. There is also the Durbhanga Raj Executive Division, Mr. Stevens being Executive Engineer, Lieutenant White, Assistant.

3. In the Chumparun District there is one Executive Division only, newly constituted, Mr. Murray being Executive Engineer, Mr. Eckstein, Assistant.

4. In the Sarun District there is one Executive Division, Captain May being Executive Engineer, with one Assistant. There is also the Hutwa Raj Executive Division, Mr. King being Executive Engineer.

5. There are further the Gunduck embankment works, Mr. Martin being Superintendent, Mr. Cotton and Mr. Vertannes, Executive Engineers.

6. Mr. Martin is nominally Superintendent of Relief Works; but he is really devoted to the embankment scheme and to irrigation projects connected with the River Gunduck, and he cannot exercise any supervision over relief works elsewhere. Manifestly the engineering affairs relating to the Gunduck must be kept separate from the relief works in distant parts of the three districts.

7. But, considering the peculiar nature of relief works, I do not think it would be expedient to leave these four extensive Executive Divisions (two of them newly constituted) without professional supervision. I therefore recommend that such an officer be appointed. I hope that he may be selected on account of special aptitude and activity in respect to the peculiar nature of the works; and it is desirable that he should join as soon as possible.

8. I do not find that there is any one in the neighbouring districts whom I could name, and I apprehend that some one will have to be selected from a distance.

No. 20.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the transport arrangements in the Bhaugulpore Division, dated Barrh, February 15, 1874.

I have gone through with Mr. Barlow, Commissioner, and Mr. Hankey the transport arrangements of the Bhaugulpore Division. They report that carts are scarce, and that after all their efforts they are not able to find enough for the conveyance of the grain already allotted to them. It is also a grave circumstance that the tracts most distressed are those near the Nepaul frontier, situate at the greatest distance from the Ganges, the base of operations.

2. It is probable that the allotment for the Soopole Sub-division will have to be largely increased. But I hope to be able to decide that point within the next week.

3. Meanwhile Mr. Barlow and Mr. Hankey have given me a memorandum whereby they estimate that 3,000 carts are needed by the 1st April to be supplied from beyond the limits of the Bhaugulpore Division. It is essential to the safety of the distressed districts that this demand should, in part at least, be met.

4. As time presses, I have requested the Commissioner of the Patna Division to purchase one thousand pairs of draught bullocks at the fair now going on in the Arrah District, and to arrange with Messrs. Fox, the contractors, to make up or otherwise provide 1,000 carts.

5. I have further asked Mr. Rivett-Carnac, Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce, to arrange to purchase, with the permission of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, 1,000 carts with draught bullocks within the districts of the Benares Division.

6. If these arrangements should succeed, then 2,000 carts with bullocks out of the 3,000 will be supplied.

7. Whether the remainder of Mr. Barlow's requisition should be supplied I will determine after visiting Soopole.

No. 21.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the deputation of a Veterinary Surgeon with assistants to the Patna Division, dated Barrh, February 15, 1874.

Looking to the very large number of cattle employed in the execution of the contracts for carriage in the service of Government in the trans-Gangetic portion of the Patna Commissionership, I strongly recommend that a Veterinary Surgeon with two assistants be, if possible, deputed to that region.

2. I am not able to state accurately the number of cattle which will be employed by the contractors on the several contracts; but it cannot be less than 60,000, and it is computed by some as high as 80,000, and the number will continue high till the middle of June.

3. I propose that there should be a Veterinary Surgeon stationed at Mozufferpore, and one assistant at Bunkur Ghât, north bank of Ganges, opposite Patna, and one assistant at Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barrh, these two ghâts being the points where the cattle are most largely congregated.

Memorandum on certain important matters for the Ramnuggur Sub-Division.

Suggestions by W. A. Howe, Esq., *Joint Magistrate.*	*Remarks by* Sir Richard Temple.
1. Strengthening the police force in the sub-division. This is absolutely necessary to prevent grain theft and mischief by fire.	I have spoken to the District Superintendent, and I have authorized the Collector to entertain extra police required for famine work.
We should have a 1st class thannah at Ramnuggur; the outpost at Shikarpore should be strengthened, and chowkees opened at *Chamardea*, *Rampore*, and *Harnatour*. The country is quite unprotected, and with large quantities of grain now being stored at our golahs, very serious consequences must ensue unless we have adequate protection.	
2. Temporarily there should be a native doctor at Harnatour, as small-pox is very bad in the neighbourhood.	Yes; certainly. I have spoken to the Civil Surgeon.
3. I would apply for sanction to increase our relief works very largely and to open out tanks; also to give payment in kind *at all* relief works, as famine prices generally prevail.	Yes; clear out village tanks and pay in kind.
To help me in this, I would recommend an engineer to be appointed to the sub-division to assist.	I will inquire. Perhaps the Assistant Engineer at Bettiah would suffice.
4. The question most urgently requiring disposal is *advances to assamees.* The Rajah has failed; there is no time to be lost, else the entire assamee population will be without food.	Yes; but I have twice spoken to the Rajah, and understand that he now agrees.
I would *not* recommend grain to be sold as yet, as we should have to continue the system too long; but *grain must at once* be distributed, the people are clamouring for it, and the only chance is to advance from Government stores.	Grain may be given as tuccavee advance to ryots on security.

If the Rajah agrees to go security can I advance grain, satisfying myself that—1*st*, the advance is absolutely required; 2*nd*, the amount; 3*rd*, to the best of my ability obtain as good sub-security for the Rajah as I can?

Yes; he will agree, so he says, to be security personally, or to let the ryots' land be security.

This is practically doing for the Rajah what he should have done long ago.

If he refuses to go security will Government take steps to make him do so, giving me sanction *meantime* to begin advances, for no time can be lost without fatal consequences?

I hope this will not be necessary, as he will agree.

The advances would be by way of a *loan* in *kind*, not a sale of grain, for which, after careful consideration, I think the time has yet come.

Yes; a loan in kind, to be recoverable hereafter like tuccavee.

5. Compared to the immediate necessity of making these advances, no single other measure is of equal importance.

6. Steps should be taken to begin building houses at Bulthur, Ramnuggur, and Harnatour. May I make estimates and plans and reports?

I have ordered this, and authorized the Collector to build houses temporarily at Ramnuggur, Bulthur, Harnatour, and Bugaha.

7. I need not advert to charitable relief, as a scheme has been submitted and sanctioned by Collector. This is in force; sanction from Government is required.

I can only agree to charitable relief being given under the rules about relief committees.

8. Finally, cash advances to enable seed-grain to be purchased will have to be made. This is not so immediately necessary, and the inquiries made in *distributing advances* will show exactly what is required and from where seed grain can be got.

About seed-grain I have still further to consider the general question.

9. Bugaha should, I think, form a part of the new sub-division.

Yes; this has been ordered.

Memorandum by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the supply of fodder from the North-Western Provinces, dated Bankipore, February 13, 1874.

In reference to the accompanying telegram* from the Central Provinces, and endorsements by the Commissioner of Patna, I shall be glad if Mr. Carnac will be good enough to undertake the completion of this order.

Copy not sent herewith.

The offer from Central Provinces must be refused as too expensive.

The requisition was for 100,000 maunds of cotton-seed, half from the North-Western Provinces and half from the Central Provinces.

The Central Provinces' reply shows the prices to be too high, and we must give up that part of the project unless Mr. Carnac can hit on some means of getting it cheaper.

The North-Western Provinces have arranged, as I understand, 20,000 maunds, are doubtful of getting more, but suggest that the required quantity be made up with other kinds.

I would leave it to Mr. Carnac's discretion to make up the 100,000 maunds in the cheapest and most efficient way he can.

"Bhoosa" would do. "Oil-cake" is much recommended, and the more of that the better.

Mr. Carnac can show this Minute to the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., C.S., on special service, with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 60, *dated Barrh, February* 15, 1874.

I have the honor to forward, for the perusal of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, copy of a memorandum given by Sir Richard Temple to the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce (see above), which perhaps Mr. Carnac himself has laid before His Honor.

2. After consulting with the Commissioner of the Patna Division, Sir Richard thinks it requisite to procure 100,000 maunds of fodder in addition to the 100,000 specified in the memorandum, *i.e.*, 200,000 maunds in all; and desires that Mr. Carnac may be deputed with full power to arrange as best he can for the collection of the whole amount, which should be consigned to the care of the Commissioner of Patna.

3. The fodder may be to some extent obtainable from the rubbee crops now coming in. In selecting from them for fodder two points should be especially borne in mind—(1) the relative cheapness, and (2) the nutritiousness of each kind of crop.

4. Sir Richard earnestly solicits the assistance of His Honor in obtaining this large supply of fodder for the cattle to be employed on the transport service of grain to Tirhoot.

No. 22.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Tajpore Sub-division of the Tirhoot District, dated Camp near Buhera, February 17, 1874.

In my Minute No. 1 of the 31st January (see p. 221) I wrote as follows regarding the Tajpore Sub-division :—

"There will be distress throughout the north-west corner of the Tajpore Sub-division. The Collector thinks that 30,000 persons may here come on our hands."

I have since had the advantage of visiting this sub-division in company with the civil officer (Mr. Wace), and I fear that the estimate above given is too low.

2. Mr. Wace considers that the greater part of Sureysa, the principal pergunnah in the sub-division, and a pergunnah containing a population of 550,000 souls, will be distressed, the Indian-corn and *murwa* having yielded about half of the average, the rice having failed, and the spring crops promising only one-third of the average yield even after the recent rains; on the other hand, these last rains have enabled the people to sow the supplementary crops—*moong*, *cheena*, and the like. If these shall germinate and yield proportionately, they will do much to carry the people on till the new Indian-corn comes in during September. This, however, depends, Mr. Wace thinks, on another fall of rain a fortnight or so hence; and this view corresponds with what I have heard elsewhere.

3. At the best, however, I have to request that the Commissioner will provide for a much larger number than 30,000 persons—say 60,000 at least.

4. If the supplementary crops shall be poor, then looking to the population of Sureysa, and allowing for the advantages of this tract in its vicinity to the Gangetic tracts where the spring crops are good, I consider that we shall not be safe unless we provide for 150,000 persons, and this must be

considered as over and above the provision of 4,000,000 of maunds stated in my Minute of the 31st ultimo. This can, however, be better decided a fortnight hence. Had Sureysa been more remote, we should be obliged to decide now; but as it is so near succour, we may postpone decision for a fortnight yet.

5. Meanwhile not a bag of grain need be kept in Tajpore, but all that passes through the sub-division should be pushed on with all speed towards Durbhanga and Madhobunee. I have instructed Mr. Wace accordingly.

6. And if any indigo planters in Tajpore Sub-division be found willing to take up carriage contracts, they should be invited to do so, not to the south of Poosa, but on the contrary to the north of Poosa, towards Madhobunee.

No. 23.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the establishment of relief committees in Durbhanga, dated Camp near Buhera, February 17, 1874.

Having again visited Durbhanga and consulted Mr. MacDonnell, the sub-divisional officer, I decide that sub-committees must be established at the following places:—

Mahomedpore.
Hya Ghât.
Warisnuggur.
Buxar Factory (south).
Singhea Thannah.
Hussunpore.
Hirnee.
Buhera.
Lehra
Dussota (south-east of Buhera).
Sahoo (north-west of Hathee).

An additional sub-divisional officer will be stationed at Hathee.

2. With the exception of Buxar, temporary accommodation for the sub-divisional officer must be provided at each place before the rains. At some places accommodation is available until the rains. But, in the first instance, such accommodation must be provided at the following places :—

Singhea.
Hussunpore.
Dossowla.
Sahoo.
Hathee.

At these places Mr. MacDonnell will be good enough to collect materials at once,. and to request Lieutenant Wright to execute the work, if possible by the 1st April, on the most economical plan possible, according to locality and circumstances, which he will determine in consultation with Mr. MacDonnell.

3. For the remainder of the places Mr. MacDonnell can arrange for constructing accommodation (in communication with Mr. Worsely) by the 15th May at the latest, that is before the rains.

4. This is in continuation of my Minute No. 2 of the 1st February (see p. 227).

Letter from G. H. R. Hart, Esq., on special duty, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 68, *dated Camp near Buhera, February* 17, 1874.

With reference to his telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated 13th instant, informing His Honor of a requisition made to Colonel Roberts, of the Quarter Master General's Department, to send a number of young officers to assist in relief operations, Sir Richard Temple now desires me to forward, for submission to His Honor, extract paragraphs 4 and 5 from a Minute No. 2, recorded by Sir Richard, under date the 1st February, containing instructions for the organization of relief committees in Durbhanga Sub-division,* together with copy of his Minute No. 23 of 17th idem on the same subject (see above). He earnestly hopes that the Bengal Government may see fit to despatch the requisite number of officers—covenanted, military, or uncovenanted—for the twelve sub-committee circles (including the additional sub-division for relief at Hathee), as stated in these papers. This number is required in addition to the officers now employed—namely, Mr. MacDonnell, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Dempster.

2. The storage of grain is, as Sir Richard is very glad to find, already sufficient in Durbhanga Sub-division to meet a considerable outbreak of distress at any moment, but the means of supervising the distribution would be very deficient; hence the necessity of the urgent application now made for additional officers.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Patna, No. 186*P-S, dated Calcutta, February* 5, 1874.

With reference to the enclosed letter (see above) from Mr. George Hart, and the Minutes to which it gives cover, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to let the Lieutenant-Governor have, at your very earliest convenience, the statement which has been asked for, showing precisely how and where all the additional civil officers (civilians, police officers, deputy magistrates, &c.) and all the military officers posted to your division are being employed and will be employed. You should also state how many additional officers (if any) you require for relief sub-divisions and for relief circles, so as to man all the circles *now* to be opened, and how many more you may require for circles which may hereafter have to be opened.†

No. 25.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Bhaugulpore District, dated Soopole, February 19, 1874.

Having visited the north part of the Bhaugulpore District, which may be regarded as the distressed part, and conferred with the Commissioner, the Collector, the civil officers of the Soopole and Mudheypoora Sub-divisions, where the distress is most likely to occur; also with the officers of the Court of Wards in the Nareedigur Pergunnah of the Soopole Sub-division, and with those native gentlemen whom I have been able to meet, I have to record the following observations.

2. The Collector (Mr. V. Taylor) assures me that in those parts of the district which lie south of the Ganges, and those which are situate on the basin of the River Kosee, there is no reason to fear any serious distress, and on the

* See p. 227, paras. 4 & 5 of Minute No. 2 of 1st February.

† See p. 259, Minute No. 33.

north bank of the Ganges the crops are excellent; indeed the excellence of the prospects of the crops near the Ganges is beyond doubt. Here and there, owing to the high range of prices all over the country, there may be scattered outbreaks of distress. Otherwise the prospects of widespread and protracted distress is restricted to the tract which lies on the eastern or left bank of the Teeljooga, which tract extends eastward till it approaches the "spill" or basin of the Kosee, the said tract adjoining the Madhobunee and Durbhanga Sub-divisions of Tirhoot.

3. This tract includes the thannahs of Soopole, Bungaon, Pertabgunj (Soopole Sub-division), and the Thannah Mudheypoora (in the Mudheypoora Sub-division). The population of these thannahs is as given below:—

	Population.
Soopole	279,102
Bungaon	145,088
Pertabgunj	141,577
Mudheypoora	251,683
TOTAL ...	817,430

4. The cause of distress here is much the same as in North-Eastern Tirhoot—namely, the failure of the principal rice crop, which failed from insufficiency of rain on a hard soil peculiarly needing abundant moisture. The case is, however, slightly better than Eastern Tirhoot, because of the *muriwa* crop of August being somewhat larger; the spring crop of wheat being somewhat better, and the supplementary crop (*cheena*) sown since recent rain being susceptible of irrigation. Still, allowing for all these circumstances, the nature of the case in most parts of the abovementioned thannahs does not materially differ for the better from North-Eastern Tirhoot. There is reason to fear that for several months the distress will be severe.

5. The Commissioner of the division (Mr. Barlow) has given me a careful and elaborate calculation, which I append. He has made this after consulting the Collector and the sub-divisional officers. The result is that he reckons on a possibility of 1,71,651 persons needing assistance for a period of five months; hence he deduces a requirement of 5,00,000 maunds at $\frac{3}{4}$ per head per diem, to which he adds 1,00,000 maunds as a margin of security.

6. My own opinion, after the best consideration which I am able to give to the subject, is that some of the percentages assumed in Mr. Barlow's calculation may be exceeded actually in many parts of the tract when the worst season of distress arrives.

7. All things considered, I estimate that in Thannahs Soopole and Bungaon 50 per cent. of the population may need assistance in the most distressed half, and 30 per cent. in the other half; that in Thannah Pertabgunj, not quite so distressed, there would be 30 per cent.; that in Mudheypoora, in one-half badly distressed, there would be 50 per cent., while the other half may escape from distress altogether. This estimate gives a total number of 2,74,650 souls, which might need assistance for three and a half months from 1st June to 15th September, while half this number might need assistance for April and May, and one quarter of this number for March. This calculation, at $\frac{3}{4}$ seer per head per diem, gives a total requirement of 7,33,732 maunds, or say $7\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs of maunds.

8. Looking then to the comparatively isolated situation of this tract, far from the Ganges, close to the hill frontier, having few roads passable in the rains and few facilities for private trade, adjoining other tracts even more distressed, I consider it essential to the safety of the population concerned (8,17,430 souls) that $7\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs or 7,30,000 maunds should be brought within its limits by the 15th June.

9. The Collector reports that 1,00,000 maunds have been carted into the tract, which leaves $6\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs or 6,30,000 maunds to be brought up.

10. The Commissioner states, after consulting the Special Inspector of Transports, Mr. Hankey, that carriage has been arranged—that is, carts and

bullocks are present to carry 60,000 maunds a month for four months, or 2,40,000 on the whole.

11. Both Mr. Barlow and Mr. Hankey state that great difficulty has been experienced in finding carriage in the Bhaugulpore District and in opening out new routes. They have just succeeded in effecting a contract for 6,00,000 maunds to be carried from Monghyr to Soopole in four months. It yet remains to be seen whether this contract will be entirely fulfilled; but we may expect that it will be fulfilled for the most part. If it is, then there will be carriage for—

	Mds.
	2,40,000
	6,00,000
TOTAL ...	8,40,000

This would provide an ample margin over and above the requirement. In that case, however, there is plenty of work for the spare carriage, inasmuch as further means are needed to convey supplies to the neighbouring district of Purneah.

12. I had previously arranged to obtain 2,000 carts from the North-Western Provinces. This carriage, if it shall be actually obtained, will be available for Tirhoot, where the carriage as yet falls short of requirements.

13. It may be added that an arrangement has been made for the conveyance of 1,00,000 maunds up the Kosee river by boat, which quantity will be available either for the Bhaugulpore or the Purneah District, according to circumstances.

14. I desire in conclusion to state that the exertions made by the local officers, Mr. Barlow, the Commissioner, Mr. Villiers Taylor, the Collector, and Mr. Hankey, the Inspector of Transports, to obtain carriage in a country where carts are scarce and routes difficult, are very creditable, and will, I hope, eventuate in complete success.

15. I have ordered further inquiries to be made as to the quantity that could be conveyed, if required, to Soopole, by the river Teeljooga, during the rains.

16. I have now to recommend that 40,000 maunds a week may be sent by rail to the railway stations between Bhaugulpore and Monghyr.

SUMMARY.

Total to be relieved (probably) during the critical months ...	155,021
Add—	
3 per cent. of population of thanna Budhowa, Mudeypoora sub-division	4,110
2 per cent. of population of Banka sub-division	7,640
1 per cent. of population of Sudder sub-division	4,880
Probable total to be relieved in Bhaugulpore during the five critical months	171,651

```
     171,651
           3
4 | 514,953
40 | 128,738 seers a day.
       3,218 maunds a day.
          30
      96,540 per month.
           5
     482,700 say 5 lakhs.
```

Allowing one lakh stored now for consumption before May.

Total requirement ... = 6 lakhs.

or

To be carted hereafter ... 5 lakhs.

Table showing the probable number to be relieved in Bhaugulpore District in the most afflicted tracts during the period of greatest suffering, viz., from 1st May till end of September.

Name of Caste as entered—Census Statement III.	Half Mudeypoora Thanna at full rates = whole thanna at half rates.			Thanna Soopole at full rates.			Thanna Bongong at full rates.			Nathpore or Thanna Pertabgunge at about half rates.		
	Total number of population.	Per cent. of distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total number of population.	Per cent. of distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total number of population.	Per cent. of distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total number of population.	Per cent. of distress.	Number to be relieved.
Aboriginal tribes	735	5	36	1,792	10	179	5	10	.....	1,542	5	77
Semi-Hinduized (aboriginals) ...	33,232	20	6,646	31,499	40	12,599	19,311	40	7,724	19,267	20	3,853
Superior castes I	8,342	5	417	10,042	B 20	2,008	11,152	C 20	2,230	6,726	10	672
Intermediate castes II	2,635	A 5	132	6,878	B 20	1,376	8,418	C 20	1,684	5,102	10	510
Trading castes III	3,716	2	74	3,299	5	165	1,943	5	97	4,121	2½	103
Pastoral castes IV	100,527	B 15	15,075	56,202	20	11,240	33,073	20	6,614	26,599	10	2,659
Cook castes V	5,827	2	117	7,201	5	360	3,858	5	192	2,188	2½	54
Agricultural castes VI	8,481	A 10	848	15,636	20	3,127	1,184	20	237	10,573	10	1,057
Servants VII	12,340	6	739	33,654	8	2,692	10,617	8	848	13,663	4	546
Artizans VIII	21,528	A 10	2,152	29,438	20	5,887	15,029	20	3,005	12,984	10	1,298
Weavers IX	11,995	20	2,399	13,727	30	4,118	13,769	30	4,130	10,806	15	1,620
Laborers X	4,173	A 10	417	8,695	20	1,739	626	20	125	1,162	10	116
Fishers XI	21,603	10	2,160	33,643	20	6,730	10,106	20	2,020	11,435	10	1,143
Hindoos not recognizing castes ...	522	2	10	351	5	18	96	5	5	628	2½	15
Mahomedans	15,005	8	1,200	24,995	20	5,000	15,668	20	3,410	14,318	10	1,431
			32,422	Say 50,000		57,232	... ..	.....	32,051	.....	.....	15,748

Mr. Martin (sub-divisional officer, Mudeypoora) agrees in these rates, save that he thinks those marked A too high, while B should be 15; and my figures thus corrected would stand 32,422, say 50,000 outside, including all west of A. B. Mr Smith (sub-divisional officer, Soopole) agrees to the averages of his thannas. He thinks the rates marked C should be halved; he would take Pertabgunge at half instead of one-third rates. This would make the figures for that thanna according to the entries.

Including increased figures proposed by both sub-divisional officers, the total will come to 1,55,021.

Totals in distressed Thannas.

Mudeypoora	50,000
Soopole	67,233
Bongong	32,051
Nathpore	15,748
TOTAL ...	155,021

No. 26.

Further Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K. C. S. I., on the grain requirements of the Bhaugulpore District, dated Soopole, February 19, 1874.

In continuation of my Minute of this day's date, No. 25 (see p. 251), regarding the grain requirements of the Soopole and Mudheypoora Sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore District, I have to request that sub-committees, under Rule 7, Part 2, of Rules for Relief Committees, may be established at the following places, which have been settled by the Commissioner in consultation with the Collector and the sub-divisional officers—*viz.*, Soopole, Ekar, Simrahi, Nareedigur, Behwanipore, and Kamp.

2. There will be, if possible, an European officer stationed at each of these places, save Nareedigur, for which circle European supervision will be provided by the Court of Wards.

3. The Commissioner is authorized to have temporary accommodation constructed at each place where accommodation may not be already available, before the hot weather begins.

4. The Commissioner is requested to declare the places where, and the dates when, Clause *g* of Rule 3, Part 2, regarding sale of Government grain, should be applied; also to determine the classes who should come under Clause *f*.

No. 27.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K. C. S. I., on relief works in the Bhaugulpore District, dated Soopole, February 19, 1874.

I have to record the following remarks regarding relief works in the Bhaugulpore District after carefully consulting the Commissioner, the Collector, and the sub-divisional officers of Soopole and Mudheypoora.

2. The District Engineer (Mr. Grant) has presented a statement (subjoined) of roads running through distressed tracts to a total length of 215 miles. These are recommended by him and the Collector as useful and practicable. But both he and the district authorities apprehend that the amount of work which might be advantageously executed on these roads cannot afford relief to more than a limited number of persons, and that a large number would still remain to be employed on other works.

3. The Commissioner and his officers consider that no more roads can be advantageously designed, and that the only class of works which they can recommend for the relief of distress consists of the tanks near the villages, on the roadsides, or in any other places open to the public. They urgently request that they may be permitted to employ the distressed poor on these tanks, and they represent that there is no other way of fully employing the distressed people who are now seeking employment.

4. Looking to the tenor of the official correspondence on this subject, to the necessities of the case, and to the permanent benefit of the population, I authorize the Commissioner to cause relief labor to be employed on the tanks of the country, either in excavating new tanks or clearing out old tanks, care being taken to work at those relief roads which are included in the 215 miles above.

5. There are, I find, other lines of road designed by the Executive Engineer. But both he and the Collector affirm that these lines are worse than useless, and the Commissioner supports this view. The construction of these particular lines as relief works is not therefore to be attempted.

List of proposed Roads in the distressed portion of the Mudheypoora and Soopole Sub-Divisions:—

	Pertabgunge to Burpore		16
Set out	... Ditto to Singhessur		26
Ditto	... Peepra to Soopool		17
Partly set out	... Soopole to Singhessur...		16
Ditto	... Pachgachia to Buraoorir and on to Maheea ...		15
	Sookpore to Mahessir		17
	Bungaon to ditto		4
	Mahessir to the Monghyr boundary		7
Set out	... Bungaon to Patoria Ghât		22
	Mudheypoora to Sunbursa		17
Ditto	... Ditto to Bailee		7
	Ditto road repairs from 19th mile to Singhessur		27
	Soopole and Bhootia road		17
Ditto	... Ditto to Chundail		7
	TOTAL	...	215

No. 28.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Purneah District, dated Soopole, February 19, 1874.

The Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division (Mr. Barlow) has shown me a careful and elaborate calculation, whereby he estimates that 6,50,000 maunds of grain will be required for the thannas of Kusbah Amour, Bulrampore, Kudbah, Purneah part, all thannas in Arrareeah sub-division, all thannas in Kissengunge in the Purneah District. He reports that 1,00,000 maunds have arrived, and he desires my approval to his proceeding at once to provide carriage for the remainder 5,50,000 maunds.

2. I am not able myself to affirm the correctness of the estimate till I shall visit the district. But, looking to the authority of an estimate proceeding from the Commissioner, and to the urgency of the case, I deem it necessary to authorize Mr. Barlow to go on with transport arrangements within the limits of his own estimate, and to constitute as many sub-committees in the thannas above mentioned as will be required, according to the principle which I have agreed to for the north part of the Bhaugulpore District.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore,— No. 1015 *S.-R., dated Calcutta, February* 25, 1874.

I am directed to forward printed copies of Sir Richard Temple's Minutes (Nos. 25, 26, 27, and 28) respecting the grain requirements of North Bhaugulpore and Purneah, respecting the relief circles of North Bhaugulpore, and respecting the relief works to be undertaken in the same tract.

2. I am to express the Lieutenant-Governor's wish that you and Mr. Hankey and the district officers will exert your utmost—

(*a*) to expand the carrying power of Purneah as well as of North Bhaugulpore, so as to act up to Sir Richard Temple's programme;

(*b*) to build at once the bungalow for relief officers, and to set the relief circles and active charitable relief in operation at once in North Bhaugulpore and in Purneah;

(*c*) to arrange for having sufficient relief works ready in North Bhaugulpore and in Purneah, and to organize their supervision so that the laborers shall receive sufficient wages and shall be regularly paid.

3. You are requested to state whether you are able to man all your relief circles from the staff of civilians, military officers, uncovenanted servants, and newly-appointed relief superintendents now at your disposal.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes you to consult with Mr. Barnfather and the district officers of Bhaugulpore and Purneah, and to report, with

reference to Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 27, whether the scheme of roads you have given as embracing *all* possible relief roads provides fully for the North Ganges emigration routes, both that *viâ* Purneah and that *viâ* Nathpore.

No. 29.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Madhobunee Sub-division of the Tirhoot District, dated Durbhanga, February 21, 1874.

I have now passed through different parts of the Madhobunee Sub-division on three occasions, and observed the western, the north-eastern, the south-eastern, and the central portions; and I have seen and heard enough to convince me that widespread distress is imminent. Indeed some distress exists already, though I hope I may say that it has not yet attained any large proportions. There are symptoms apparent which show that it is essential to the well-being, perhaps to the safety, of the people in this sub-division, that additional facilities should be afforded for the obtaining of food. Private trade, however much it may be doing for other parts of Tirhoot, has done but little for this sub-division up to the present date, and at this late period, which might prove to be the eve of famine unless aid were afforded, reliance could not be placed on trade on this comparatively remote and roadless tract.

2. Grain depôts are being prepared at the following places:—

Harlaki, Pheet, Deodha, Banipatee, Palee Ureynd, Korohiya, Khagouli, Narhar, Ladnia, Patrahi, Bari Bazaar, Lowkaha, Pirozghur, Parsa Dankhwa, Narahiya, Mathour, Mahadeomat, Andramat, Domra, Basdeopore, Mudeypoora, Junjharpore, Sarso, Pandoul, Bachour, Madhobunee. Additional depôts can, and probably will, be fixed at the discretion of the sub-divisional officer.

3. Already there are within the limits of the sub-division—

	Mds.
Government grain	37,000
Durbhanga Raj grain	24,000
TOTAL ...	61,000

This would suffice at ¾ seer per head to keep about 200,000 persons alive for a fortnight, which is about 25 per cent. of the population of 700,000 souls.

4. After carefully consulting the sub-divisional officer (Mr. Magrath), Colonel Burn, Manager of the Durbhanga Raj, Mr. Llewhellin, and Mr. Stevens, I have to request that a supply of grain out of the 61,000 maunds above mentioned be pushed on with all dispatch to each one of the grain depôts above mentioned, and that at certain depôts the grain be sold under Clause *g*, Rule 3, Part II, at the rate of 10 seers the rupee—that being the rate recognized in the orders of Government and being the rate which, in the opinion of the sub-divisional authorities, best fulfils the conditions of the said Clause *g*. The depôts in question will be those situate within the pergunnahs of Buhera, Bachour, Alipore, Puchwi, and Jabdi, which are the most distressed portions of the sub-division.

5. The sub-divisional officer represents that he cannot at the outset find available trade agency of a sufficiently trustworthy character to carry the arrangements out except under supervision. He wishes that a trader (village bunniah) should be employed at the depôt to conduct the sales on behalf of Government, care being taken that the grain was sold only for the relief of necessity, and not at all for trading or storing.

6. If any ryot shall require sustenance, the sub-divisional officer is authorized to give advances repayable in a year, if the said ryot can give security, or if the zemindar shall agree to become security.

7. The foregoing orders apply to the pergunnahs above specified only. If Mr. Magrath shall find them needed for the remaining pergunnahs of the sub-division, he should make official application for extension accordingly. Further, Mr. Magrath is requested to establish small depôts with a bunniah near the places where relief works are being carried on, so that the laborers may be able to obtain grain easily. This order applies to the whole sub-division.

8. If these orders shall have the effect of exhausting the supply of 61,000 maunds, it is to be remembered that within a fortnight 60,000 maunds, in addition of Government grain, are expected from the direction of Chumpta Ghât, and 12,000 maunds Durbhanga grain from the Monghyr route, and after a fortnight much larger supplies will be coming in weekly.

9. The sub-committees, as ordered in my Minute No. 2 of the 1st February (see p. 227), are being formed at the following places :—

Umgaon.*	Kachra.*
Bela.*	Patrâhi.
Pirozghur.	Narahiya.
Mahademat.	Rudpore Domra.
Muddeypoora.	Junjharpore.

At those marked with an asterisk accommodation is available. At the rest the Executive Engineer is about to begin the construction of temporary accommodation for the European officers who are to preside over the sub-committees. The several circles, of which the abovementioned places are the centres, will comprise the whole area of the sub-division.

10. Until these officers arrive (which will, I hope, be very shortly) the distribution of gratuitous relief in every village where it may be needed can hardly be managed. Meanwhile I observe with satisfaction that much relief is being afforded at Madhobunee, at Junjharpore, Muddeypoora, and to some extent at the police posts on the frontier.

11. Meanwhile I hope that all officers concerned will be on the alert to watch for individual cases of severe distress, not only in large centres and in large villages, but also in villages scattered about in remote localities. I fear that ere long no village will be free from cases in which gratuitous relief must be promptly afforded in order to save life.

12. The object will be to so arrange the relief works that this form of assistance shall be within reach of every village. Wherever there are tanks to be cleared out or to be made, they become relief works of the most effective kind ; where they do not exist, there are cross country roads to be made.

13. I have agreed to the plan of such roads as formed by Lieutenant Wright in consultation with Mr. Cochran (late sub-divisional officer), the total length being 220 miles in all. I hope to hear next week that Mr. Magrath, in conjunction with Lieutenant Wright, has commenced work on many different points on these lines of road ; I have made, some days ago, an urgent requisition for ten overseers to serve under Lieutenant Wright, and I have authorized him to employ Mr. Sherman, who is on the spot. But pending the arrival of the overseers, Mr. Magrath is requested to employ any qualified natives he can find temporarily, inasmuch as the work ought not to wait till the existing distress becomes worse.

14. The main line for the transport of grain supplies is that from the Durbhanga border to Peepra Ghât on the Bolan *viâ* Junjharpore to Naraya. Up to Peepra Ghât it is in charge of the sub-divisional officer. From Peepra Ghât to Naraya it is in charge of Mr. Stevens, Engineer of the Durbhanga Raj, and will be bridged before the rains, the screw piles and other materials being on their way. The provision of water along this line as far as Junjharpore will be easy, but not so from Junjharpore to Naraya, there being only five tanks between the two places. One or two more will be needed at intervals, and also at Naraya itself, the terminus of the main line of transport.

15. Mr. Magrath has gone through with Mr. Gale, manager of the Pundoul concern, and engaged in the transport contract, the branch routes of the transport, and given orders for clearing the way for carts.

16. I have ordered that relief labor may be employed as much as possible in cutting the small "doop" grass, which is sufficiently abundant all over the sub-division. In this way very large quantities of grass ought to be received ; when so received, it is to be stacked at convenient places on the various lines of transport for fodder for the draught cattle. It will doubtless be taken over by the contractors at a valuation. The contractors attach importance to the collection of adequate quantities of this grass. I beg the particular attention of the sub-divisional officer to this ; also of Colonel Burn and the officers of the Durbhanga Raj. Without this arrangement there will be difficulty about

fodder, and the matter is one in which the whole agricultural community may fairly be called upon to help, and that, too, immediately.

17. I further beg the attention of Colonel Burn and the officers of the Durbhanga Raj to the facilities which the Raj rent system, with its tehsildars and naib tehsildars, affords for the management of relief. In the sub-division there are eight such officials necessarily acquainted with members of villages in the midst of which they reside. I hope that Colonel Burn will make them understand the responsibility which attaches to them to search out and bring to notice all cases of distress.

18. On this, as on former occasions, I have received complaints from distressed Brahmins who will not work on relief works, and who would run the risk of starvation sooner than do so. The difficulty of those cases is so well known, that I need not say more. But I find that in such cases (at least in those where application is made to me) the Brahmin is almost always a cultivator of land on a small scale, and may therefore receive some assistance by way of advance if he can give security, or if his zemindar will be security. In some cases I inquired into, I should think that such advance may be given; but it must be doled out bit by bit, so as to prevent the Brahmin from trading with it. I request the sub-divisional officer's attention to this method of dealing with a very difficult class of cases.

19. A large part of the zemindaree of the sub-division belongs to the Durbhanga Raj. Some other zemindars known as "the Madhobunee Baboos" have done a little in the way of constructing tanks and subscribing; others, notably the Mirzapore Mohunt, and several native bankers have done nothing. I trust that Mr. Magrath will bring to bear such influence as he fairly can to induce these gentlemen to do their duty by their tenantry and dependents.

20. Some native traders have stated to me their desire to get grain from a distance. I have not much reliance on their request, as it comes rather late. But I have told them that they may have advances to enable them to get grain from such places as Rosera and Kugurrea. The sub-divisional officer is requested to bear this in mind.

No. 33.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the appointment of relief officers in the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, February 25, 1874.

The Commissioner of Patna has, at my request, furnished me with the following list of officers now present or arriving for sub-divisional committees or sub-committee circles in the distressed sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District:—

I.—Durbhanga Sub-Division.

Mr. A. P. Macdonnel, C.S., sub-divisional officer.
„ Aikman, C.S., 2nd relief sub-division, Hathee.
„ Dempster, judicial officer at Durbhanga.
„ Henry, C.S., Durbhanga circle.
„ Harris, C.S., Dosowta circle.
„ Oranne, C.S., Buhera circle.
„ Doveton, Hirneo circle.
Ramakhoy Chatterjee, Singheea circle.
Mr. Tonnerre (under training at Durbhanga).

Thus five sub-committee circles are filled up out of eleven, leaving six to be filled.

II.—Madhobunee Sub-Division.

Mr. Magrath, C.S., sub-divisional officer.
„ Forbes, C.S., 2nd relief sub-division at Naraya.
Umbica Churn, judicial officer at Madhobunee.
Mr. Marindin, C.S., a sub-committee circle.
„ Williams, C.S., ditto.
„ Paul, C.S., ditto.
„ Meiklejohn, C.S., ditto.
Ishree Persad, Junjharpore circle.
Mr. Macfarlane, a sub-committee circle.
„ Collis ditto.

Thus seven out of ten sub-committee circles are filled up, leaving three to be filled.

III.—SEETAMURREE SUB-DIVISION.

Mr. O'Reilly, sub-divisional officer.
„ Beamish, 2nd relief sub-division at Poopree.
„ Mackertich, judicial officer.
„ Campbell, a sub-committee circle.
„ Rattray, ditto.
„ Lorimer, ditto.

Thus three out of six sub-committee circles are filled up, leaving three to be filled.

2. Therefore the number of sub-committee circles remaining to be filled up stands thus:—

Durbhanga	6
Madhobunee	3
Seetamurree	3
TOTAL ...	12

3. On the 13th February, I telegraphed to the Quarter Master General for the services of twelve junior military officers for relief operations.

4. By Resolution of the Government of Bengal of the 21st February, I find that the following officers will be available for relief work:—Lieutenants Lyster, E. Money, and P. Buckland, and two officers from Meerut, *i. e.*, five in all. It appears thus that seven junior military officers still remain to be named for this work.

5. I have since learnt that Lieutenant Buckland has been selected for the transport department under Colonel MacGregor. There will therefore be eight officers to name instead of seven.

No. 34.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on reserve transport carriage for the Patna Division, dated Bankipore, February 26, 1874.

I desire to record, for information of the Commissioner, an abstract of what I have done or ordered respecting reserve carriage for transport of grain in the Patna Division.

2. Two hundred carts were ordered to be made up at Patna, 300 in the Tirhoot District; in all 500. For these bullocks were ordered to be purchased in the Nepaul Territory by a Subadar under orders of the Resident: 300 pairs have been already purchased. If on the completion of these purchases anything remains in order to make up the 500 pairs, it is to be purchased by the Commissioner of Patna in the districts south of the Ganges.

3. Seven hundred and fifty carts and bullocks have been ordered to be hired in the North-Western Provinces. Of these, 400 are reported by Mr. Rivett-Carnac to be on the way marching down, and the remainder 350 to have been ordered and to be coming very shortly.

4. One thousand carts have been ordered to be made up in the Arrah District, through Mr. Fox: the bullocks to be purchased by the Commissioner of Patna at the cattle fairs of that district. This order is reported to be in due course of preparation.

5. One thousand carts were, on the 15th February, ordered to be purchased through the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and Mr. Rivett-Carnac reports that most of this number have been purchased, and that the order is nearly completed.

6. I have just ordered 1,000 carts in addition, to be purchased in the North-Western Provinces, in order to complete the reserve, as Mr. Carnac assures me that the North-West authorities will be able to effect this.

7. The numbers then stand thus:—

	Carts with bullocks.
Tirhoot and Patna	500
North-Western Provinces (hired)	700
Purchased in Arrah	1,000
Already purchased in North-Western Provinces ...	1,000
Just ordered to be purchased in North-Western Provinces	1,000
TOTAL RESERVE CARRIAGE ...	4,250

8. This reserve transport, which is of considerable strength, will be at the disposal of the Commissioner, who is requested to place them under the immediate executive orders of Colonel MacGregor. I leave their disposal to the discretion of the Commissioner, with the general proviso that a considerable portion be kept north of Durbhanga, or in the Madhobunee sub-division.

Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 79, *dated Bankipore, February* 26, 1874.

I am directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a Minute No. 34, dated 26th February (see above), recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the reserve carriage for transport of grain in the Patna Division.

2. Although the carriage contracts are working well and promise to continue to do so, yet, considering the importance of the issue at stake and the possibility of the contracts failing, Sir Richard has thought it absolutely necessary, after consulting with the Commissioner of Patna and Colonel MacGregor, to establish this reserve of 4,000 Government carts, and to place it at the disposal of the Commissioner.

3. Sir Richard trusts that his action will be approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Letter from C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, No. 85, *dated Bankipore, February* 26, 1874.

I am directed to report that Sir Richard Temple, having visited the Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun districts of the Patna Division, as well as the Soopole sub-division of the Bhaugulpore District, proposes to return to Calcutta for the purpose of conferring with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal before proceeding to the other distressed districts, especially those of Purneah and Dinagepore. After visiting these, he can revisit the Patna Division, if that course shall be deemed desirable.

2. I have duly forwarded to you, for submission to His Honor, all the Minutes of substantial importance recorded from time to time by Sir Richard regarding the districts inspected and the questions submitted to his notice Recapitulation of the facts therein contained is therefore unnecessary.

3. But Sir Richard cannot leave the Patna Division for a time without offering to the Lieutenant-Governor the expression of his sincere acknowledgment for the cordial approval so promptly accorded to his suggestions; and of his hope that his recommendations, submitted after personal investigation on the spot, may continue to coincide with the policy of Sir George Campbell.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 1236 *S. R., dated March* 4, 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No. 85 of 26th ultimo (see above), in which you announce the completion of the tour in Behar which Sir Richard Temple was so good as to undertake, and his return to Calcutta for a time before undertaking another tour. The Lieutenant-Governor begs most heartily to

acknowledge, as he has already acknowledged to the Government of India, the very great advantage to the public service from Sir Richard's most zealous and energetic labors in inspecting and supervising the relief operations in Behar, and settling on the spot very many things which could not have been so well or so promptly disposed of in any other way. The Lieutenant-Governor is much gratified to know that Sir Richard Temple feels that his action has been facilitated by the cordial support of this Government, and Sir George Campbell on his part desires prominently to acknowledge that Sir Richard Temple's aid and co-operation have been rendered to him in a manner calculated to promote to the utmost, harmony and common effort for the public good.

2. In regard to the further tour which Sir Richard Temple is about to undertake, the Lieutenant-Governor having fully conferred with Sir Richard, need say little in this letter. Copies of the most recent letters and reports from Purneah, Dinagepore, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs have been furnished to Sir Richard.

3. There has been so much variation in the accounts regarding Purneah that, although the last accounts are, on the whole, favorable, it will be a great relief to the Lieutenant-Governor to have Sir Richard Temple's deliberate opinion of the needs of that district formed after inquiry on the spot.

4. The demands made for assistance for the Sonthal Pergunnahs have till now been very indefinite and very insufficiently supported by proper information. The last account of a small portion of those Pergunnahs is, however, more precise, and so alarming, that the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it right to direct the immediate despatch of a small supply of grain. He trusts that Sir Richard Temple will be good enough to give him the opinion which he may be able to form after hearing the local officers and making such inquiry as he deems requisite on the question whether further arrangements are necessary to secure the safety of the Pergunnahs.

5. As respects Dinagepore and Maldah, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes it will be found that the arrangements of the local officers are good; that relief work has been given promptly, judiciously, and in good time; that the transport arrangements are now sufficient, and that the provision for charitable relief is organized on a good plan, and is being brought into active operation as fast as the circumstances require.

6. The situation in Dinagepore and Maldah, and to some extent in Purneah, is somewhat different from that in the districts of North Behar, which contain a much denser and poorer population. The people generally are better off and not so much accustomed to labor for hire. In certain tracts very extensive relief will be necessary, but it is hoped that more may be done by selling grain in places insufficiently supplied by private trade, and allowing the people to distribute it themselves, and that less gratuitous relief will be necessary than in those poorer districts where we may be obliged thus to feed a very large proportion of the population. The Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that in considering the arrangements made by the local officers, Sir Richard Temple will give full weight to the circumstances of that part of the country.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor has expressed a hope that when Sir Richard Temple again visits Patna, he will be good enough to give a final opinion as to whether it is necessary to provide any further supplies of grain at present for Gya and Shahabad.

8. The district officers of several districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions have made application for supplies of grain. The Commissioner of Burdwan has not yet thought this necessary, and the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has only recommended it for some very limited localities to a certain extent. Still prices must be high, and much of the population in the western districts is poor; and the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if returning by the chord line from Patna, Sir Richard Temple would take the opportunity to make such inquiries as he can, and favor the Lieutenant-Governor with his opinion on his return.

No. 35.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, February 26, 1874.

I desire to record an abstract of the contract arrangements for the transport of Government grain in the Tirhoot District.

2. The Western Company, represented by Messrs. Smith, Minden, Wilson and Company, undertake to convey six lakhs of maunds from Bunkur Ghât near Hajeepore to Seetamurree *viâ* Mozufferpore, and four lakhs to Contai, on the west of the abovementioned line, to Seetamurree.

3. The same Company further undertakes to carry from Bunkur Ghât five lakhs to Ottar and Poosa, places to the east of Mozufferpore, and five lakhs to Durbhanga.

4. Thus the total amount to be sent forward by this Company from Bunkur Ghât is to be twenty lakhs.

5. The two contracts in Eastern Tirhoot, one represented by Messrs. Meredyth, Lloyd, and Company, and the other by Messrs. Macjoon and Company, have been amalgamated into one, called the Alliance Company. This Company undertakes to carry from Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barrh, eighteen lakhs of maunds to the various depôts in the Durbhanga sub-division.

6. A native company, Neel Comul and Company, undertake to carry from the ghât opposite Mokameh four lakhs of maunds to Durbhanga.

7. The amounts to be sent forward from the north bank of the Ganges then stand thus:—

	Lakhs.
Western Company	20
Alliance „	18
Native „	4
TOTAL ...	42

8. But it will be observed that these quantities will not be conveyed by these Companies beyond the following places:—

Seetamurree and Contai.
Ottar and Poosa.
Durbhanga and places near it.

9. From Seetamurree and Contai a considerable portion of the 10 lakhs (6+4) will have to be carried on to various depôts. For this a separate company has been formed, represented by Messrs. Tripe, Begg, and Company.

10. The five lakhs conveyed to Ottar and Poosa will have to be carried on to Kamtaul by an association represented by Messrs. Studd and Wilson.

11. At Kamtaul this quantity will be taken over by contracts arranged under Mr. Llewhellin, Assistant Manager of the Durbhanga Raj, for conveyance into the Mudhobunee sub-division.

12. From Durbhanga 11,00,000 are to be carried on into the Mudhobunee sub-division by contracts arranged under direction of Colonel Burn and Mr. Llewhellin of the Durbhanga Raj. These contracts arranged by the officers of the Durbhanga Raj, which represents the largest landed interest in Mudhobunee, are managed by the indigo planters resident there, at the head of whom is Mr. Gale. A portion of the contracts is arranged in the Sarun District under the management of Mr. Llewhellin's brother.

13. Thus the amount for Mudhobunee will be:—

	Lakhs.
From Kamtaul	5
Durbhanga	11
TOTAL ...	16

14. It has been seen, however, that Durbhanga is to receive:—

	Lakhs.
From the Alliance Company	18
„ Western „	5
„ Native „	4
TOTAL ...	27

15. Out of this 11 lakhs sent on to Mudhobunee, leave 16 lakhs for Durbhanga.

16. Thus the apportionment of the 42 lakhs between the three distressed sub-divisions stands thus—

	Lakhs.
Seetamurree	10
Mudhobunee	16
Durbhanga	16
TOTAL ...	42

17. Besides this contract carriage, there is the reserve of 4,250 Government carts with bullocks mentioned in my Minute No. 34 of this day's date (see p. 260).

No. 36.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the distribution of pack bullocks in the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, February 27, 1874.

Subject to Mr. Bayley's directions, Colonel MacGregor is to have not less than 50 pack bullocks at each grain depôt. Numbers of depôts not exactly known, and slightly alter from time to time, but can hardly be less than 100. Thus 50 x 100 = 5,000.

2. For safety, I think that 6,000 pack bullocks should be immediately purchased, or hired south of the Ganges, or beyond the northern frontier of Tirhoot, through such agency as the Commissioner may select.

3. Colonel MacGregor is to arrange the pack bullocks among the depôts in time, so that they may be ready to distribute grain among the villages.

4. It is to be understood that these bullocks must not be hired in Tirhoot for fear of interfering with our own carriage contractors—save perhaps in the Mudhobunee sub-division; but even there it must not be done without the consent of Colonel Burn and Mr. Llewhellin, who are responsible for the supply of transport carriage there.

5. This strength of pack bullocks is *not* to be regarded as a part of the reserve carriage. On the contrary, the bullocks will form a supplement at the end of the regular transport service.

P. S.—In the Chumparun District, the same principle will apply, but in that district pack bullocks may be hired.

No. 37.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the cart resources of the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, February 27, 1874.

In my telegram of the 24th to the Lieutenant-Governor, I stated in reference to Tirhoot transport that carts were abundant, and so they are. But subsequently the contractors have undertaken to carry an additional amount, and considering the total contracted for in Tirhoot (38,00,000) and the distance

to be carried, I apprehend that the cart resources of the district will be tried to the utmost; and whether they will prove fully equal to the task, is more than any one can say. If they should prove at all deficient, we are prepared to adopt subsidiary measures.

No. 38.

Further Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, February 27, 1874.

I desire to add to my Minute No. 35 of the 26th instant (see p. 263), regarding transport arrangements, that those plans are irrespective of increased anticipation of distress in the Tajpore sub-division, as adverted to in my Minute No. 22 of the 17th idem (see p. 249).

2. If anticipation should arise, as it possibly may, within the next fortnight, then some additional supplies beyond the 40,00,000 of maunds will have to be provided, and some additional transport arrangements made.

3. I shall not be able, however, to submit detailed proposals on this head until the fate of the supplementary crops, "*moong*," &c., shall be known. But I will keep a watchful eye on the case, and so will the Commissioner.

4. If such increased supply be found necessary, and if there be difficulty in carrying that by railway, we can purchase the required amount locally.

5. As regards transport, there should not be much difficulty, as the distance is short—within 30 miles from the Ganges. Local transport, however, will not be obtainable. We should have to depend on pack bullocks, to be obtained south of the Ganges. I have asked the Commissioner to prepare for this contingency immediately on its becoming apparent that the *moong* crop may fail. For this purpose, 5,000 pack bullocks will be needed.

No. 39.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the sale of grain in the Bhaugulpore Division, dated March 5, 1874, *en route to Caragola.*

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has asked me for further instructions relative to the order given in my Minute No. 26 of 19th ultimo, paragraph 4, regarding the sale of Government grain (see p. 255).

I think that throughout thannas Soopole and Bongaon, and in the distressed half of thanna Mudeypore (Bhaugulpore Division), there is such grave reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food that grain ought at once to be sold from Government depôts.

The prices should be fixed according to Clause 8, Rule 3, Part II, of the Rules for Relief Committees. The rate at Sahibgunge, which I have just visited, is 12 seers the rupee; the rate at Patna was the other day 13 seers. On the whole, I considered that the rate of 12 seers may be allowed in the abovementioned tracts, and I authorized the Commissioner to proceed accordingly.

The agency of private trade should be employed as much as possible, care being taken that the grain is sold only for relief, and not for trading or storing. But if the local authorities cannot find such agency, they may retail the grain in the best way they can.

Further, the Commissioner wishes the above order to apply to the following tracts in the Monghyr District:—

Buktiarpore (including all villages in the police outpost of that name) is conterminous with the distressed tracts of Durbhanga and Madhobunee, and separated from the Ganges valley by much swampy ground.

The thanna of Sekunderpore and the southern half of the thanna of Sheikpore, excluding the town of Sheikpore.—This tract I have partly seen and knew to be distressed. I authorized the Commissioner accordingly.

In none of the tracts specified above is there any mart whatever.

The price of a rupee for 12 seers is for Bengal rice. The rates for other food grains will be fixed by the Commissioner on the same principle.

No. 40.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the sale of grain in the Mudhobunee and Durbhanga sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District, dated March 5, 1874, *en route to Caragola.*

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has represented to me that the sale of Government grain at 10 seers the rupee is at famine price, and that help to real sufferers from scarcity is virtually denied under such terms. Mr. Barlow would suggest the sale by Government of Bengal rice at 12 seers for the rupee.

Under instructions recently issued to sub-divisional relief committees (Clause 8, Rule 3, Part II), the sub-divisional committees may now arrange for the sale of Government grain through the agency of local traders at the price fetched at the nearest large mart. Looking to the price at Sahibgunge and at Patna, I have authorized the sale of grain from Government depôts in certain tracts of the Bhaugulpore and Monghyr Districts at the rate of 12 seers for the rupee. I consider that the same rate is applicable to the adjoining tracts of the Tirhoot District, and accordingly request that the grain authorized to be sold by the former orders on this subject in the Madhobunee and Durbhanga sub-divisions, and which orders are contained in my Minute No. 29 of 21st February (see p. 257) may be sold at the rate of 12 seers for the rupee.

No. 41.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the rate of wages for relief labor in the Bhaugulpore District, dated March 5, 1874, *en route to Caragola.*

I have examined with the Commissioner the relief labor returns for the Bhaugulpore District. They may appear small at first sight, but I find that the relief works in the Nareedigur Pergunnah (Soopole sub-division) are excluded; these works are under the Court of Wards, and may fairly be included. I saw myself within 3 and 4,000 laborers on these particular works, and the addition of these would make a considerable difference in the total of the return.

I am glad, however, to find that the attention of the Commissioner is being given to the important subject of attracting laborers to the relief works as the best means of checking the beginning of distress. It seems to me that the following rates should be observed in reference to the need of preventing our relief operations from causing a permanent increase in the rate of wages.

As I understand it, the rate of 1½ annas per diem is proper for laborers of the lowest class. To these no taskwork system is applied. This is more than a common fixed laborer receives ordinarily (1 anna), but it is admitted that 1½ annas must be given during high prices to those who labor on relief works, at even a slight distance from home. Two annas would be allowed only for a laborer who can work somewhat better than a villager, to whom some taskwork system is applied. This is the rate ordinarily given to a Public Works laborer and to a professional coolie.

I beg that whenever 2 annas are given, such system may be enforced as may ensure the rate being restricted to the better kind of workmen.

I observe that taskwork means work done under the eye of a supervisor.

I hope that the rate of 12 seers for the rupee for the sale of Government grain may suffice to attract villagers to the works at 1½ annas per diem.

The authorization to construct or clear out village tanks as relief works will conduce, I hope, to the same result.

To the distressed poor of both sexes the taskwork system cannot be applied. As much work must be obtained for them as they can fairly do, and

no more, any enforcement of a labor test may repel these people, and cause ultimate danger to life. But it is better to obtain a little, even the smallest amount of work, than to give gratuitous relief. The object should be to search out these poor people village by village, and to induce them to report to such works, which ought always to be within reasonable distance. The offering of piecework (which is really a contract without rate of wage) is very good whenever the people will accept it, and I am glad to find that the Commissioner resorts to it whenever practicable.

No. 42.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the sale of grain in the Bulrampore and Dengra thanas of the Purneah District, dated Dengra Ghât, March 7, 1874.

The Collector of Purneah has brought to my notice that a serious deficiency of food is to be apprehended within the circles of Bulrampore and Dengra, and requests that the sale of Government grain from the depôts within those circles may be authorized. I authorize the sale accordingly at a price of 12 seers for the rupee, which appears proper on the grounds set forth in my Minute on the sale of grain in the Bhaugulpore District, which price is, I know, approved by the Collector and the Commissioner.

No. 43.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on advances to ryots in the Kishengunge sub-division of the Purneah District, dated Dengra Ghât, March 7, 1874.

The sub-divisional officer of Kishengunge represents that it is immediately necessary to make cash advances to the poorer classes of ryots to enable them to purchase seed grain from the mahajuns.

2. Here, as elsewhere, the better classes of ryots keep their own seed grain, but the poorer classes get their seed from the mahajuns, who now refuse to give it without cash or without security.

3. The sorts of early rice (called locally *juneera* and *bhadoi*) ought to be sown from now to the beginning of April. The Collector thinks that the sub-divisional officer should be authorized at once to make advances to the ryots, and I request that this may be done in every case where there is a reasonable expectation of repayment.

4. Such advances may be made either for the purpose of obtaining seed or for ordinary subsistence, and they may be made either in cash or in grain, preferably in grain.

5. The sub-divisional officer ought to make such advances with such supervision as may ensure the assistance reaching the right person.

6. I bear in mind that this ought to be done by the zemindars; but about here the two principal zemindars (Kugra and Kishengunge) do but little. The zemindar of Kishengunge is much involved. They should, however, be reminded of their duty, especially the zemindar of Kugra.

No. 44.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Purneah District, dated Dengra Ghât, March 7, 1874.

Having visited the Purneah District and travelled from Caragola in the south to Kishengunge in the north, passing through those parts of the district where there has been the greatest failure of the crops, I have to record the following observations and directions.

2. There was throughout the district a serious want of rain during last autumn, which caused a considerable failure of rice—the principal product. On the other hand, the rubbee, or spring crops, were sown more largely than usual,

and owing to the recent rains, the yield will be fair. To the south on the Ganges indeed there is the promise of a fine spring harvest. Thus, though there will be destitution here and there, in most parts there will not be general distress.

3. But there will be distress localized in certain parts of the district where the failure has been much worse from a particular cause, which is this: The rivers Mahanuddee and Poonar usually inundate the adjacent lands where fine rice crops are raised. On this occasion the inundation failed, and the crops were lost, which form three-fourths of the sustenance of the people for a year. Here also the people have sown some spring crops which, owing to recent rain, are doing well. Otherwise the case seems to me to be bad, nearly as bad as in any of the places in North Behar which I have seen.

4. The tracts thus especially affected from failure of inundation and of rain, and which have the worst degree of distress, are—

		Population.
Thanna Kusba Amour	... ...	114,147
„ Bulrampore	... ...	115,961
„ Kudbah	... .	134,158
	TOTAL ..	364,266

5. The tracts affected above the average by failure of rain which have the secondary degree of distress are—

		Population.
	Thanna Bahadoorgunge	173,511
	„ Kissengunge	144,164
	„ Purneah	148,619
One-third of	„ Arrareah	60,947
	TOTAL ...	527,241

The total of the population more or less distressed then amounts to 891,507 souls.

6. The question then arises as to what proportion of this population may be expected to need assistance from Government in some shape or other during the period of distress which is about to begin.

7. The Collector (Mr. Kemble) has calculated the number at 130,000, of which 45,000 pertain to parts other than the distressed tracts, leaving 85,000 for these tracts. The latter number taken on the population of these tracts amounts to 10 per cent. The Collector's estimate is carefully made with percentages separately taken on each caste or class as given in the census statements.

8. The Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, makes a similar calculation (adverted to in my Minute No. 28 of the 19th February), whereby the number comes out at 150,000, which amounts to 17 per cent. on the population concerned.

9. Now if a proportion were to be assumed at all similar to that taken for the distressed tracts in Northern Behar, then a much higher number would come out. On that principle 40 per cent. would be assumed for Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, and Kudbah, and 20 per cent. for Bahadoorgunge, Kissengunge, Purneah, and one-third of Arrareah. According to that, the total would come to 251,154—a number greatly in excess of that given by the Collector and the Commissioner. To this, too, there would have to be added proportionally 50,000 for the rest of the district, bringing up the total to 301,154.

10. On the other hand, while the distressed tracts in Northern Behar derive little or no succour from private trade, are comparatively remote and inaccessible, and are somewhat widely separated from prosperous tracts, the distressed tracts in Purneah are receiving much benefit from private trade, are easily accessible by means of a trunk road and a navigable river (Mahanuddee), and are close to tracts blessed with good harvests.

11. I should therefore consider it sufficient for safety to assume 30 per cent. for Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, and Kudbah, and 15 per cent. for Bahadoorgunge, Kissengunge, Purneah, and part of Arrareah, which gives a total of 188,365 souls, to which must be added 50,000 for the rest of the district, making a total of 238,365, say 240,000.

12. The period of distress will probably commence towards the end of the current month (March), and will last till the middle of August, when the *bhadoi* or August rice comes in, say four and a half months on the whole.

13. The Collector's estimated number, 130,000, at ¾ seer per head per diem, gives for four and a half months the quantity of 3,28,000 maunds. The Commissioner's estimated number, 150,000, gives a quantity of 3,80,000 maunds. In order to provide a margin for safety, he has brought up the quantity to 5,00,000.

14. The number according to my estimate gives a quantity of 6,07,000 maunds—to which it may suffice to add a small margin for safety, bringing the total up to 6,50,000, or 6½ lakhs of maunds.

15. Already a provision of 5,00,000 maunds has been made, and local transport has been arranged accordingly. Of this quantity, some 2,50,000 have already arrived, leaving 2,50,000 remaining to be brought in.

16. According to my view, an additional quantity of 1,50,000 (to make up 6,50,000) will be needed. The resources of the district would certainly suffice for the transporting of this quantity, were it not that a quantity of 1,50,000 will have to be transported by the carts of this district for the service of the Dinagepore District. But as this service has been undertaken, the Purneah carts cannot do more than transport 6,50,000 without unduly interfering with private trade.

17. How then would the additional quantity of 1,50,000 be carried? Well, the river Mahanuddee passes by Dengra Ghât, the very centre of the distressed tract, and is navigable up to that point during even the hot months.

The Collector made special inquiries at my request, and he appears to have a good hope of being able to transport this quantity by water carriage. I have requested him to arrange the collection of the boats as soon as possible. The grain would be brought to Kooshtea by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and would thence pass for a short way up the Ganges and then enter the Mahanuddee.

18. I have seen the carting arrangements throughout, and consider them efficient. The work is done through petty local contractors (natives), and the rate of charge is cheap, much cheaper than in the neighbouring districts. There does not seem to be any difficulty in respect to fodder.

19. The following relief circles have been arranged by the Commissioner in accordance with the principle which we settled together at Soopole in February:—

1. Purneah.	5. Kusba Amour.
2. Dengra.	6. Kissengunge.
3. Kudbah.	7. Bahadoorgunge.
4. Bulrampore.	8. Arrareah.

The Collector seems confident that these circles are sufficient, and I believe that they will prove so.

20. Certainly in the worst tracts the officers will have a manageable area. There are 27 grain depôts, but this number may be added to with advantage, especially in the worst tracts, so that the depôts may not be more than 5 or 6 miles apart. I have pointed out this to the Collector.

21. Civil officers have been posted to six out of the eight circles; two circles have yet to be filled, and I have written separately on this point. In all the circles native assistants have to be supplied. This may, I hope, be managed as soon as the native officers selected from the Army shall arrive.

22. A subordinate medical establishment will be required for each circle. I have applied separately for this.

23. I have examined with the Collector the map of the relief roads. The lines form a tolerably complete network throughout the distressed tracts, and have a total mileage of 505 miles. With all these, it seems to me that some road or other will be within reach of almost every village, say within a distance of 2 to 4 miles.

24. Unfortunately the soil of this district is not suitable for tanks; consequently one means of providing relief works is lost. The cattle are here watered from the rivers or rivulets which are so abundant. The improvement of village tracts will, however, afford the minor sort of employment which may be required.

25 Fortunately the district has a more than ordinary strong staff of district engineers—five in number. There are also five overseers, but five more are wanted, and for these I have applied separately.

26. The laborers on the relief works, according to latest accounts, hardly exceed 7,000—a number much smaller than what we might expect to see under the existing circumstances of the district. The wages (2 annas a day for the better kind of laborers, and 1½ annas for other laborers) seem fair. It may be, however, that owing to the demand for labor for waste lands, the ordinary rate of wages is higher than in the Bhaugulpore and Tirhoot districts. I have drawn the special attention of the Collector to this matter; and it may be expected that when the Government grain begins to be sold at 12 seers for the rupee, then the number will rapidly increase.

27. On the recommendation of the Collector, I have authorized Government grain to be sold from the depôts of the circles of Kusba Amour, Dengra, and Bulrampore at a rate of 12 seers for the rupee, that being the rate recommended by the Commissioner. Despite the exertions of private traders, there is reason to fear a deficiency of food arising at any moment in the tracts abovenamed.

28. I learn from the Collector that more than Rs. 60,000 have been taken as advances by traders of Purneah for the importation of grain, mostly in small sums of Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 by each man. The grain is chiefly imported from Sahibgunge.

29. I have specially requested the sub-divisional officer at Kissengunge to make advances for sustenance or for the purchase of seed to the cultivators in that neighbourhood, as the need of such advances there was specially represented.

30. The Collector reported that the following native gentlemen (zemindars) had exerted themselves to help their tenantry during the trouble:—

Baboo Ram Chunder Dass, of Rampore; Meer Muhummed Kasim, of Peerhawa, Saifgunge; Doola Jat, of Chukanee.

On the other hand, I was unable to learn that either of the two Rajahs of Kugra or Kissengunge had done anything on this occasion, and I had to admonish the Rajah of Kugra in respect to his duties in this matter.

31. I have had the advantage of meeting Colonel Burn and Mr. McQueen, and learning from them the fortunate condition of the large pergunnah of Dhurumpore belonging to the Durbhanga Raj, which pergunnah is situate in part near the Koosee and in part near the Ganges. I myself passed through the part near the Ganges, and saw that the crops were excellent. Colonel Burn and Mr. McQueen described the autumn and winter harvests as having been good, and the promise of the spring harvest as being equally good; but they doubted whether any real assistance could, or would, be afforded by the people there to the distressed portions of the district.

32. There were no signs of distress being imminent at the moment of my visit; but under the circumstances of the district, it is impossible to say how soon distress may break out. In that event, however, the supplies at hand, 2,50,000 maunds, ought to enable the Collector to apply an immediate remedy.

33. I have in conclusion to state that the Collector (Mr. Kemble) appears to me to be very well fitted to cope with any difficulty which may arise, and able to conduct with discretion and promptitude the operations necessary for the prevention of famine in his district.

P. S.—In accordance with the view expressed in paragraph 16 above, I have to recommend that an additional quantity of 1½ lakhs of maunds may be sent forward by the Eastern Bengal Railway to raise the total allotments for the Purneah District to 6½ lakhs of maunds.

No. 45.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division, dated Dinagepore, March 11, 1874.

I have visited some of the worst parts of the Dinagepore Division, and conferred with the Relief Commissioner (Mr. Robinson) and the Collector (Mr. Lowis), and I have conversed with many natives of all classes. I will defer

making a complete report till I have seen some places which yet remain to be visited. Meanwhile I desire to make a preliminary report on certain things which I have ordered, or which need to be supplied by Government.

2. As regards quantity to be supplied, the Collector calculates that 400,000 persons may need assistance at the worst period; and that one million of maunds will be required, which quantity has been ordered. Whether this quantity will suffice is a question on which I will offer an opinion after completing the round of the district; meanwhile it is certain that this quantity will partly, if not wholly, suffice.

3. The grain is sent partly by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea, and partly by the East Indian Railway to Rajmehal and Sahibgunge; it is sent on partly by boats, and partly by carts. The carts come chiefly from the north of the Dinagepore District. I have seen something of the transport arrangements, and so far as I have seen, they are efficient.

4. No contract system, large or petty, is adopted with the carts. The Government officer deals direct with the cartmen. The rate of payment is fairly liberal, tantamount to 2 to 3 pice per maund per mile. It is to be remembered that the carts have to go long distances; the cattle which I have seen are in good condition. The Collector is considering the arrangements for the supply of fodder. I will examine this subject further.

5. Already 2,00,000 maunds have arrived at the depôts of the district, and at least 50,000 maunds per week are arriving. Thus the Commissioner and the Collector are justified in their confidence that the million of maunds will be stored by the rains.

6. It is to be remembered that the river navigation to the upper parts of the district, though not yet open, will be open by the rainy season. This is important, as the distress is expected to last until the middle of August.

7. There is no marked distress yet reported; nor has any marked symptom come under my observation. Yet there has been a very great loss of food-supply almost all over the district, and there is probably a large deficiency of grain. The prices of grain in the distressed tracts are seldom above, and are more often below, 10 seers the rupee. Distress might therefore break out at any moment; the outbreak of distress and the rapid rise of prices have probably been retarded only by the demonstration of the preparations of Government.

8. If such distress should break out at any moment, there will be a quarter of a million of maunds, or more, at hand wherewith to meet it, stored in 27 depôts placed in convenient localities in the distressed tracts.

9. But 13 depôts yet remain to be supplied with grain. The Commissioner and the Collector have had their special attention drawn to this, inasmuch as it is so important that some supplies should be available everywhere wherewith to check distress wherever it may manifest itself.

10. The Commissioner and the Collector consider that there is reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food in the following tracts (designated as thannas):—

Raneesunkoil.	Kaleegunje.
Hemtabad.	Gungarampore.

Ghora Ghât.

I have seen some of the places, and have no doubt of the general fact. I have therefore authorized the Commissioner to cause Government grain to be sold under Clause *g*, Rule 3, Part II, of the Relief Rules, at a retail rate of 12 seers the rupee—which rate I fix after conferring with the Commissioner and the Collector in reference to the prices at the nearest marts accessible by rail or river.

11. I find that 13 relief circles have been fixed. They seem to be appropriate and of manageable size. Whether they are altogether sufficient is a question on which I will offer an opinion after completing the round of the district.

12. Officers have been appointed to all these, of whom nine have arrived, and three yet remain to arrive.

13. Two assistants (natives) are required for each of the 13 circles, making up (with three in reserve) 29 in all. These have not yet been appointed.

I have requested the Commissioner to cause as many of these to be appointed as he can find in the district on salaries of Rs. 100 and 80 per mensem. The Collector states that he can find ten such persons; the rest, nineteen, cannot be got on the spot, and must be found elsewhere. I have requested the Commissioner of Rajshahye (Mr. Molony) to send nine on the above salaries, to arrive at Dinagepore not later than the 1st April, their travelling expenses to be paid; and I have asked that ten selected native officers from the army may be sent as soon as possible to Dinagepore.

14. I have begged the Commissioner to ensure that every village in the distressed tracts shall be visited once a week by the responsible establishments in each circle.

15. The Commissioner has shown me a map of relief roads, which form a tolerably complete network throughout the distressed tracts. The total length amounts to 420 miles. Whether this arrangement will suffice I cannot say till I have seen more.

16. There are many old tanks to be excavated or new tanks to be made. By existing orders, the Collector has to obtain a subscription of two-thirds of the amount before commencing the work. I have requested the Collector to get the subscription if he can, and to use his best endeavours; but if he cannot, and if the work be needed urgently for relief, then to execute it at Government cost.

17. At present there is an Executive Engineer (Mr. Mackenna), with three professional assistants, employed on three trunk lines not included in the above statement of relief roads which serve as relief works. He does not appear to be wholly under the Commissioner or the Collector, and his position requires further consideration.

18. Meanwhile there are no Public Works establishments at all attached to the 13 relief circles. I shall therefore beg that Government may be pleased to cause thirteen overseers to be sent as soon as possible.

19. I have seen some 7,000 relief laborers out of the 32,000 reported to be at work. The men were in good condition for the most part. They receive a liberal rate of wages, 2½ annas per diem, and the women 2 annas.

20. No subordinate medical establishments have yet arrived in the 13 circles, save two native doctors. Therefore at least eleven more are required. I shall beg that Government may be pleased to cause these to be sent as soon as possible.

No. 46.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division, dated Dinagepore, March 11, 1874.

After consulting the Relief Commissioner and the Collector and several of the best-informed natives in the Dinagepore District, I estimate the amount of grain to be supplied by Government at 12 lakhs of maunds. This amount is somewhat in excess of the local estimate of 10 lakhs.

2. The worst thannas are—

	Population.
Ghora Ghât	16,925
Ranee Sunkal	78,696
Pateeram	66,866
Gungarampore	75,196
Kalliagunj	94,728
Hemtabad	87,089
TOTAL	419,500

The next worst are—

Rajarampore	197,106
Bungsharee	78,288
Putneetola	122,700
Poorsha	48,803
Nawabgunge	46,573
Peergunge	89,296
TOTAL	582,766

3. The worst period of distress will be three months, from 15th May to 15th August. There will be two months before this period and two months after; in all four months of more or less distress.

4. In the worst thannas I take 60 per cent. of the population as likely to need aid from Government at some period or other, and 30 per cent. in the next worst. In the remaining thannas of the district the Collector does not think that any considerable supplies from Government will be needed.

5. Accordingly my estimate comes out as follows:—

Population of worst thannas	419,500 60	
	251,700	
of which 60 per cent.	...	=251,700
Population of second worst thannas	582,766 30	
	174,829	
of which 30 per cent.	...	=174,830
∴ Total population to be considered		=426,530 3
		4)1,279,590
		40) 319,897
Whose daily consumption at ¾ seer per head per diem will be maunds		7,997 30
And their monthly consumption, maunds		239,910
		Mds.
Then, two months at ½ rate		=239,910
	239,910 2	
	4)479,820	
	119,955	
Two months at ¼ rate		=119,955
	239,910 3	
Three ,, at full rate ...		=719,730
	719,730	
TOTAL FOR 7 MONTHS		=1,079,595
Add allowance for wastage, 5 per cent.		53,980
		1,133,575
And allow for safety, 5 per cent.		56,679
TOTAL ...		1,190,254

or say 12 lakhs of maunds.

6. Transport arrangements have been made to bring 10 lakhs into the district by June. The remaining 2 lakhs can be brought into the district by water carriage after June; but they are required at Kooshtea (Eastern Bengal Railway) by the 1st June.

No. 47.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Rungpore District of the Rajshahye Division, dated Bogra, March 14, 1874.

Having visited Rungpore, marched through the most distressed parts of the district, and conferred with the local authorities, I have to record the following observations.

2. The cause of the scarcity is as follows: The rice crop is the food staple of the district, occupying full three-fourths of the cultivated area. The remain-

ing one-fourth is principally occupied by other products such as jute (fibre), tobacco, mustard, sugarcane, betelnuts, and indigo (native industry); a small fraction only is occupied by spring crops—wheat and potatoes. The rains of 1873 were fairly good towards the northern part of the district adjoining Cooch Behar, and towards the eastern part in the basin of the Brahmapootra near the confluence of the Teesta. In these parts the rice crop was moderately fair, with a yield of 8 to 10 annas. Elsewhere, in the central, the western, and the southern parts of the district, the rains were scanty and partial; consequently the rice crop failed to a large extent, affording a yield of from 2 to 3 annas.

3. Taking the district as a whole, the Collector (Mr. Glazier) informed me that the yield of the rice crop hardly exceeded 4 annas. The Relief Commissioner (Mr. Robinson) thinks that the yield must have been from 5 to 6 annas. In other words, full two-thirds, or at least more than one-half, of the principal food staple has failed.

4. It is difficult to obtain a statistical calculation from native authority for the whole district. But all the native gentlemen whom I met declared that a very extensive failure of rice had occurred. Numbers of the cultivator class reported local failure in various directions.

5. The prices of rice are very high—10 seers to the rupee at Rungpore, and in the central and western parts; 12 to 13 seers in the eastern parts, and 11 seers in the northern parts.

6. Though Rungpore is not a great rice exporting district, still there is some exportation of this product in ordinary years, amounting perhaps to one-third of the whole crop. As is well known, the wealth of the district arises from the exportation of the jute fibre and also of tobacco. It is stated by European officers, and admitted by natives, that most of the ryots are comparatively well off. Indeed there is a certain sort of wealth diffused among them: they can bear up for some time against high prices. Still the lower classes of the ryots are poor. These and the lowest classes below them are already suffering from the effects of the scarcity. Gratuitous relief is already being afforded in several places by native gentlemen, and in Maheegunge (or Rungpore city) by Government.

7. It is to be borne in mind that the jute, perhaps the greatest source of wealth to the cultivating classes, is grown in the northern and the eastern parts of the district, where the rice crop was fair, and not at all in the central and western parts, where the rice crop was bad. Consequently, the ryots of the distressed tracts do not participate in the profits of the jute cultivation.

8. There has been of late a considerable importation of rice into the district on the east side from the districts beyond the Brahmapootra, Mymensing, and Dacca; by the Brahmapootra itself and then by its affluents, the Teesta and the Durla; also on the north-west side from the adjacent tracts of the Dinagepore District. I have not been able to obtain from the Collector the statistics of this importation, but I have instructed him to arrange for registering the statistics of this trade from the present time. The importance of this information for determining the supplies to be provided by Government is manifest. I understand, however, that the amount received from the Dinagepore District is about 6,00,000 maunds; and that the imports by river may be from 30,000 to 50,000 maunds a week. The Collector seems to place much reliance on this trade. It is probable, however, that the imports from Dinagepore will cease, and it is certain that the river imports do not reach the distressed tracts on the south-west. On the whole, those distressed tracts near Rungpore will be benefited by trade, while the other distressed tracts will probably not.

9. The recent rains (end of January and beginning of February), amounting to at least 3 or 4 inches in most parts of the district and in some parts to more, afforded but very little relief as regards the scarcity of food. The rice crop had already gone, and there was no growing crop in the ground to be benefited, save wheat and potatoes.

10. But the prospective benefit of this most seasonable rainfall was very great, for the fresh moisture enabled the people to prepare the land and sow the seed for the *aous* or early rice crop, which will be reaped at various dates from the middle of June to the middle of August. An unusually large

area has been thus sown, and so propitious is the moisture, that the crop is regarded as nearly secure. If its present promise shall be fulfilled, then its yield is expected to amount to one quarter of the average total rice yield of the district. In that case it would cause a diminution of the distress to begin after the 15th June, and a cessation for the most part after the 15th August. Entire cessation is hardly to be hoped for until the next winter rice crop shall be reaped in December.

11. The distress already setting in will go on increasing till perhaps the middle of April. In that case it will continue at its height till the middle of June; it would become moderate till the middle of August, from which time it would be further diminished and would go on decreasing. Such in brief is the opinion of the local officers, concurred in by the Commissioner.

12. I should therefore estimate the maximum number of persons likely to need assistance from Government for two months, half that number for two months more, and one quarter of the number for three months.

13. After conferring with the Collector, I requested him to render his estimate of the rice required from Government for this district according to information up to date (12th March). He gives the following estimate, in which the Relief Commissioner concurs :—

Name of Thanna.	Population.	Proportion expected to need assistance from Government.	Persons to be provided for
Maheegunj	123,000	20 per cent.	24,600
Molung			
Peergunj	255,000	15 „	38,250
Chilmaree			
Sudoollapore	120,000	10 „	12,000
Gobindgunj...	163,000	50 per cent. of 18,000; 5 per cent. the remainder.	9,000 8,150
Borobaree			
Nisbetgunj	508,000	5 per cent.	25,400
Koourgunj			
Durwanee			
Ooleepore	425,000	No percentage calculated, as only a small number are likely to be affected.	10,000
Nagasree			
Total ...	1,594,000		127,400

This gives a total number of 127,400 persons expected to need assistance from Government; and calculating that it will be necessary to supply the whole number for two months, half the number for two months, and a quarter of the number for three months (taking $\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer per head per diem), the total amount of grain required will amount to 2,68,664 maunds. To this must be added 5 per cent. for wastage and 5 per cent. for safety, which will bring the total amount required up to 3,00,000 maunds.

14. This quantity is, I think, the least that ought to be provided. I am not without misgiving that it may be less than enough. But looking to the chances of private importation being maintained, and to the facilities for communication by river, and the comparatively short distance for conveyance by carts from the landing places to the distressed tracts, I would accept the estimate for the present.

15. Two lakhs of maunds have been already ordered (of which 1,20,000 maunds have already arrived) leaving one lakh more to be ordered to make up the three lakhs. The grain is brought by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Goalundo and thence by steamer to Kaleegunge, just below the junction of the Teesta with the Brahmapootra. That part which is destined for Rungpore itself is carried from Kaleegunge up the Teesta; that which is destined for the other parts of the district is sent by carts. There are about 500 carts employed in the service. I have instructed the Collector to make the numbers up to 1,000 as soon as possible.

16. On the recommendation of the Relief Commissioner and the Collector, I have determined the following relief circles, of which the areas have been

arranged in order to admit of the various villages being inspected once a week, according to the rules:—

West.	*Centre.*
1. Nisbetgunj.	6. Maheegunj.
1. Koourgunj.	7. Soondergunj.
2. Molung.	
South-West.	*North-East.*
3. Peergunj.	8. Borobaree.
South and South-East.	
4. Sadoollapore.	*North-West.*
5. Gobindgunj.	9. Durwanee.

Nine officers, who are already on the spot, have been nominated to fill these circles, and the assistants necessary for them will be immediately obtained in the districts by the Collector.

17. On the recommendation of the Collector, I have sanctioned the withdrawal from the district police force of three selected officers for relief work. To these men extra pay will be given during the time they are so employed; the pay to be fixed by the Relief Commissioner to cover all travelling expenses. The District Superintendent of Police has stated himself to be able to fill up their places temporarily from among the men of his force.

18. I have arranged therefore that there shall be nine sub-committees constituted under the rules; and that three of these, Sadoollapore, Soondergunj, and Gobindgunj, shall be placed under Mr. Damant, C. S., who will have the powers of a sub-divisional committee.

19. On the urgent representation of the Relief Commissioner, I have authorized the sale of Government grain under Clause *g*, Rule III, Part II, of the Rules, at 12 seers to the rupee at the depôts of Peergunj, Sadoollapore, and Soondergunj. There is reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food at these places, which the trade is not supplying, and occasional symptoms of distress are apparent.

20. The total length of the relief roads projected amounts to 723 miles. The number of laborers is under 7,000. The rate of wages allowed is high, 3 annas per diem for men; no women have yet come to the works. Looking to the circumstances of the district, I should expect a much larger number. The Commissioner seems to think that the local management may be improved. The laborers will now be paid in grain.

21. Not more than one, or perhaps two, overseers are available for the supervision of these works. At least four more are required.

22. For the circles as above explained, seven native doctors are required, two only being now available.

23. Large numbers of ryots assembled to complain to me of distress, and I understand that for many days equally large numbers have been daily at the head-quarters of the district with the same complaint. The statements made by many of them seemed to be exaggerated. Many of them, on the other hand, appeared to be really in need and distress. Some large zemindars of the district, such as the Ranee Surnomoyee, the zemindars of Kakina, Luchmeeput, Dhunput, Baboo Anunda Prashad, and others have set a good example in assisting their tenantry. Others have taken advances from Government for this purpose, some forty in number; the total of the advances being nearly one lakh of rupees. Again there are many substantial ryots, more perhaps than in any of the neighbouring districts, though it is to be remembered that most of these live *out* of the distressed tracts. After making all allowances, I cannot doubt that there is a fast increasing distress among large classes of the ryots in this district. Their request is for advances of cash or of grain to enable them to live until the next harvest comes in. I will endeavour to deal with this somewhat difficult subject in a separate paper.

No. 48.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Bogra District of the Rajshahye Division, dated Dinagepore, March 16, 1874.

Having visited the Bogra District, and marched through some of the worst parts of it, I have to record the following observations.

2. The soil of the district is divided (like the district of Dinagepore or Rungpore) into two main categories—*polee*, light or sandy, and *khiar*, or clay. The district is divided into two parts by the river Korateya (an affluent of the Brahmapootra).

3. The *khiar* soil prevails on the western side of the Korateya river, and the *polee* on the eastern side.

The crops on the *polee* soil are rice chiefly, and other products—sugarcane, wheat, and pulses.

4. The crops on the *khiar* soil are almost entirely rice; there is also the well-known mulberry cultivation, but that is limited to the vicinity of the town of Bogra.

5. The deficiency of rain affected the *khiar* much more than the *polee* soil.

6. The rice failed more completely on the *khiar*, and that having failed, hardly anything else remained; whereas on the *polee* soil the rice failed to a much less extent, and there were other crops which have turned out well.

7. In the *khiar* the yield of rice was from 2 to 4 annas; in the *polee*, some 6 to 8.

8. The consequence is, that about half the district is distressed, while the other half is fairly well off.

9. The distressed parts consist mainly of the thannas of Bogra and Khetlal, with portions of thannas Panchbeebee, Seebgunge, Sherepore, and Adumdigi.

10. I have had the advantage of consulting Baboo Madhub Chunder Mitra, the Deputy Magistrate-Collector, who has long experience of the district, and is highly recommended to me by the Relief Commissioner and the Collector as a valuable witness. He thinks that there will be much distress until the middle of August next. As it is important to record the views of a well-informed native gentleman, who maintains his opinion on cross-examination, I will give the substance of the Baboo's opinion. He would estimate the number of persons who would need assistance from Government in some shape or another as follows:—

Thanna.	Proportion of population needing relief.	Number of people.
Khetlal ...	... 75 per cent. ...	... 28,974
Bogra ...	... 75 „ ...	... 164,619
Seebgunge ...	... 30 „ ...	... 17,714
Panchbeebee ...	... 30 „ ...	... 20,142
Badalgachee ...	... 25 „ ...	... 9,185
Sherepore ...	... 25 „ ...	... 18,509
	TOTAL	... 259,143

11. He thinks that the full number should be taken from 15th April to 15th July, half the number from 15th March to 15th April and from 15th July to 15th August, whilst a quarter should be taken for the four months from 15th August to 15th December.

12. If the assistance of Government were given in the shape of rice, then, at the rate of ¾ seer per head per diem, the total would come to 7,28,790 maunds. But he considers that for the most part the assistance need not be given in rice but rather in money, either as wages on public works or as advances. The reason is, that though there is a serious deficiency of grain in the district, still supplies are drawn from the districts of Pubna and Rajshahye on the south, and Mymensing (across the Brahmapootra) on the east.

13. The large traders are not importing from distant districts, because the high prices prevailing elsewhere preclude the hope of profit; but petty dealers and other persons are continually obtaining supplies in small quantities.

14. The stocks of the district itself, known as white rice, are probably approaching exhaustion; but the rice of neighbouring districts, known as red

rice, is seen in the market. Such is the Baboo's opinion: he was not at all shaken on cross-examination.

15. Looking to all these considerations, the Baboo thinks that 1,50,000 maunds, to be imported by Government, will suffice, but that nothing short of this will be adequate.

16. The Collector, Mr. Kelly, would admit the value of the Baboo's opinion; but looking to all the circumstances of the district—to its facilities for communication, to its prosperity in ordinary years, and to its probable means of bearing up against scarcity—he seemed to be strongly of opinion that the 50,000 maunds already provided by Government would suffice.

17. The Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, thinks that the percentages of persons who may need assistance, as taken in the Baboo's estimate, are too high. He would make the following estimate as regards the number:—

Thanna.	Population.	Proportion to be relieved at worst.
Khetlal	258,123	77,500
Bogra		
Seebgunge	175,243	35,000
Badalgachee		
Panchbeebee		
Sherepore		

or a total population of 112,500 to be relieved at the worst.

Of these, he calculates that—

	Maunds.
One-fourth, *i. e.*, 28,125 persons, will require food for three months, which, at ½ seer per head per diem, amounts to	31,590
One-half, *i. e.*, 56,250 persons, for two months, at above rate ...	42,240
Whole for two months, at the same rate	84,360
TOTAL	1,58,190
Or in round numbers	1,60,000
Or taking ¾ seer	2,40,000

18. His recommendation is, that Government should provide 1,60,000 maunds.

19. He considers that the circumstances of the district have grown worse since his last visit; that due allowance has been made for facilities of communication and other favorable circumstances in his determination of the percentage of persons who may need help, and that the quantity as shown in his estimate ought to be supplied.

20. He considers that money aid on a very large scale would cause an excessive rise of prices, and so cause fresh complications; therefore he is for affording aid largely in the shape of food.

21. I consider, having regard to all the circumstances, that 2,40,000 maunds ought to be provided for this district; of which 50,000 maunds have been already ordered, leaving 1,90,000 maunds remaining to be ordered. Out of the 50,000 maunds ordered, 20,000 maunds have arrived; no time should be lost in bringing up fresh supplies, as the amount in hand is small as compared with the extent of possible distress.

The grain is brought by steamer on the Brahmapootra to a point near Nokeele, east of Bogra; it is thence conveyed by carts into the interior of the district.

22. The carts now employed are few—under 300. I have asked the Relief Commissioner to instruct the Collector to collect additional carriage, inasmuch as carts are available in numbers in the Bogra District.

23. The prices in the district are not dear comparatively—12 and 13 seers for the rupee. The people seem to complain very much of the range of prices; the reason assigned is that they are accustomed to very cheap prices in ordinary years.

24. During my visit the following seven relief circles were determined to be administered by sub-committees:—

Bogra.	Booreegunge.
Khetlal.	Gohail.
Seebgunge.	Hillee.
Doopchanchea.	

For these circles, the following officers are available:—Mr. Nugent and Baboo Oomesh Chunder Ghose joined, and not joined but on their way, Messrs. Atkinson, Collier, P. C. Gupta; leaving two more to be sent. Of assistants, two are already appointed, and the Relief Commissioner meditates appointing the remaining five, and putting them in their places within a week.

25. I found a large relief road under construction through the heart of the distressed tracts. Several branch roads have been projected.

26. The number of relief laborers is upward of 5,000; the rate of wages 3 annas per diem. These people are at present paid in cash. I have requested the Relief Commissioner to have them paid in grain whenever he may think fit.

27. The Collector was in doubt whether the construction of tanks could be regarded as a relief work. I told him that it certainly could; that he should raise as much subscription as possible, but that in every case of urgency he should commence the work at once. There are many places suitable for the commencement of such useful works.

28. There is besides an executive engineer, a superintendent of roads, and two overseers. I recommend that three more overseers be sent.

29. Besides the civil surgeon, there are two native doctors appointed for relief purposes. These have not yet joined. I recommend that four more be sent.

30. I have not thought it necessary as yet to authorize the sale of Government grain (under the rules) at any of the depôts of this district.

31. A large multitude of ryots came into the station of Bogra on the day of my visit and clamored for relief or for advances. I was informed that this agitation had been going on for some days. Some of the complaints were doubtless exaggerated, but many of the men seemed to be really in need. I will try to deal with the subject of advances to ryots in a separate paper.

32. The grain merchants of the district have not applied for advances from Government for the purpose of obtaining rice from a distance; nor was I able to hear of any zemindars who had done anything noteworthy for the assistance of their tenantry.

No. 49.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on advances to ryots for subsistence, dated Dinagepore, March 16, 1874.

I consider Mr. Lowis's answer to my question to be very practical and calculated to help in solving some of the troublesome questions connected with the granting of advances to ryots. The difficulty must always be to distinguish which ryots are fit recipients of this advantage, and to prevent persons who are not really in need from besieging the Collector with applications.

2. Now the ryots who really need advances will be just those who resort to our relief works, and the period during which they require this assistance will be just that for which they are obliged to absent themselves from their work in order to till their fields.

3. It is reasonable then that for such limited time they should receive as subsistence allowance the very rate which they had been receiving while at the works: a test is thus afforded of the man being really deserving. A ryot will not be working on the roads unless he be really distressed, and I should anticipate that the plan will work easily. Moreover, the amount of advances will be restricted to the limit of absolute need. I should expect that though the number of recipients may be large, the amount advanced will be very moderate.

4. When granting this subsistence by way of advance, the circle officers should obtain the attestation of the mundul and putwarree of the village; and he should first see whether there is any chance of the zemindar being induced to do it.

5. If any sort of security be obtainable, it should be obtained. If not, then a reasonable expectation of recovering the advance must suffice.

6. I authorise Mr. Lowis, under Mr. Robinson's supervision, to try the plan at once.

7. This plan is intended to apply only to those ryots who labor on our relief works. But if any ryot can show, to the satisfaction of the circle officer,

good reason why he cannot thus labor, he may, as a special case, be admitted to the benefit of these advances.

8. The plain answer therefore to any ryots who clamor for advances would be, that they must first attend the relief works. If they are really in distress, they will do so. If they refuse to do this, there arises a presumption that they have not yet reached that extremity, and the object is thus attained of restricting the advances to cases of real necessity.

Memorandum by E. E. Lowis, Esq., Magistrate-Collector of Dinagepore.

In answer to a question* put by Sir Richard Temple,—

The ryots who at present are most in want of assistance in the distressed tracts are those who are working on our roads, and who, being otherwise unable to support themselves, are afraid to absent themselves for the time necessary to prepare the land for next harvest.

Advances might be made to such men by continuing their wages as coolies during such period as they are unavoidably absent, engaged in cultivation.

Each officer in charge of a circle has under him a certain number of coolies engaged on work. By inquiry he can easily ascertain how many of them are cultivators, who are anxious, but cannot absent themselves, to engage in cultivation.

Each officer is also continually going about his circle, and can ascertain whether coolies of the nature indicated above are respectable men, who could be trusted to repay money lent to them to tide over their difficulties.

In his real position of overseer of works and charitable relief, each officer can ascertain the name, residence, and character of each cooly on his list of workmen, and which of them are in want of advances. Each cooly might be given the option of absenting himself for a certain number of days from work to attend to his cultivation, continuing to receive his pay as if he were present; such payment being made on the distinct understanding that the amount so advanced shall be repaid as soon as the coming crop is harvested.

The plan is simple: for every officer has a list of coolies, with the number of days they are present or absent during a week; he can also easily ascertain who are the persons anxious to get away for a few days, and his inquiries regarding charitable relief bring him in contact with the heads of villages and other respectable inhabitants, who can certify respecting any cooly's character, extent of cultivation, &c.

The money being paid on the distinct understanding that it is a loan to be repaid, will prevent applications from those who are not really anxious to get away, and will afford a test of such; and the fact of an advance having been made on the recommendation of the munduls, who will be to a certain extent responsible for the debt, will ensure a reasonable prospect of recovering the money.

Each case will of course be treated on its own merits, the officer granting leave of absence according to the extent of cultivation, distance from the work, &c., care being taken that no such leave is allowed more than once at each stage of cultivation.

Each officer granting leave of absence on the above terms will keep an accurate account of the number of days during which any cooly has absented himself, and of the amount paid; the mundul will also keep a list of names of residents within his village, and will see that the absentees do engage in cultivation according to their implied agreement.

No. 50.

Further Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Dinagepore District of the Rajshahye Division, dated Dowlutpore, March 17, 1874.

Before quitting the Dinagepore District, I deem it proper to record some observations in addition to those already recorded in my Minutes Nos. 45 and 46 of the 11th of March (see pp. 270—272).

* Q.—How should advances be made to the ryots of distressed tracts in cases where there is a reasonable prospect of recovering the money, in a manner that shall be simple of application, that shall afford a test of real need, and that shall obviate the necessity of a separate inquiry and order in each instance?

2. The situation of the district in respect of inland carriage is more isolated perhaps than that of any of the distressed districts in all Bengal, as it is separated from the Ganges, the base of operations, by the districts of Pubna, Rajshahye, and Maldah.

3. The furthest grain depôts of Dinagepore are distant 120 miles from the Ganges; the average distance of the depôts from the great river is about 70 miles; two depôts only, Churamun and Raigunj, are within 30 miles of the river. This circumstance has from the first, *i. e.*, from December last, caused anxiety regarding the inland transport.

4. The carts of the district are numerous (though not nearly so numerous as in the Behar District). They are kept by the people for the purpose of the export trade of rice and of jute. But the jute cultivation exists not at all in the central or southern parts of the district where the distress exists, but in the northern or portion near Cooch Behar. Consequently, the district carts, if employed to bring in Government rice from the south, would have to go down to the Ganges—a distance of 150 miles from their homes—which rendered the cartmen unwilling to undertake the service.

5. It therefore became important to make use of the several rivers, affluents of the Ganges, which traverse the district in a general direction from north to south. These rivers are the Koolik, the Tangun, the Poorna-Bhaba, the Attrai, the Juboona, and the Koroteea. These are navigable through all parts of the Dinagepore District during the rainy season, and afford abundant water communication. But during the other months they are navigable as far only as the southern parts of the district. The local authorities then determined to make use of these rivers so far as the navigation might be practicable during the dry months in connection with the navigation of the Ganges.

6. Another subject of consideration was this—that this distress was not confined to certain main tracts, but was scattered over widely distant parts of the district. For example, there is distress north of Nekmurd, the western corner of the district, and at Ghora Ghât, the south-eastern corner—a distance of 110 miles. There was distress in Bhadureea on the east side to Churamun on the south-west corner—95 miles. It therefore was impossible to confine the transport to a few main lines, and the selection of many and divers routes became necessary.

7. At the time of my visit I found that the local authorities, under the general direction of the local Government, had organized the following lines of transport by land and water, the greater part of which lines I have seen, being thus able to bear witness to their efficiency. The lines or routes are eleven in number, *viz.*:—

I.—Railway, Eastern Bengal. Terminus *Goalundo.*

By country boats across the Ganges to junction of its affluent the Oorasagur; then through the Chullun Bheel Lake into the Attrai, passing through the Pubna and Rajshahye Districts to Nowgong, a depôt on the Dinagepore frontier; thence through southern part of the Dinagepore District to Putneetola on the Attrai, a distressed locality: distance entirely by water 70 miles.

II.—By steamer up the Brahmapootra to Noakeela, opposite Bogra; thence by carts through Bogra District to Ghora Ghât and Bhadureea, distressed localities in south-eastern corner of the Dinagepore District: distance by water 120 miles; by land 50 miles.

III.—Eastern Bengal Railway. Terminus *Kooshtea.*

By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Rampore Beauleah, on north bank; thence by carts through Rajshahye District to Putneetola, already mentioned: distance by water 40 miles; by land 50 miles.

IV.—By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Godagaree, at junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by carts through parts of the Rajshahye and Maldah Districts straight on to Dinagepore. This is the first of the two main routes for the centre of the Dinagepore District: distance by water 60 miles; by land 90 miles.

V.—By steamer and boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Rohimpore, junction of the Poorna-Bhaba in the Maldah District; thence up the Poorna-Bhaba past Neetpore to Gungarampore, distressed localities in the Dinagepore District: distance entirely by water 140 miles.

VI.—By steamer and country boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Maldah; thence by carts through Maldah District to Tumboolee, distressed portion of Dinagepore District, and on to Dinagepore. This is the second of the two main routes to Dinagepore: distance by water 110 miles; by land 60 miles.

VII.—By steamer and boats to Godagaree, to Maldah, where transhipped into smaller boats and carried up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore District), junction of the Koolik; thence up the Koolik to Raigunj; thence by carts to Hêmtabad and its neighbourhood: distance by water 150 miles; by land 20 miles.

VIII.—By steamer up the Ganges to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, on north bank; thence by cart to Neemaserai on the Mahanuddee in district of Rajmehal; thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore District) and Raigunj: distance by water 150 miles; by land 20 miles.

IX.—Station East Indian Railway, *Rajmehal.* Cross Ganges by boats to Manick Chuck; thence by carts to Neemaserai; thence by boats to Churamun. Also by carts past Neemaserai to Dinagepore: distance by water 40 miles; by land 20 miles in the first case and 60 in the second.

X.—Station East Indian Railway, *Sahibgunj.* Down Ganges by boats to Hyatpore, north bank; thence by carts through Maldah District to Churamun and Raigunj: distance by water 20 miles; by land 25 miles.

XI. *Sahibgunj.*—Across river by steamer to Caragola; thence by carts through Purneah District to Dengra Ghât; thence to Hemtabad (Dinagepore District) and to Kissengunj (Purneah); thence to Nekmurd (Dinagepore): distance by water miles; by land 90 miles in the first case and 120 miles in the second case.

8. In other districts the transport routes are intricate; but in no district are they so unavoidably complicated as in the Dinagepore District. And the management of all these routes, each one supporting and aiding the other, shows a degree of skill and combination which is creditable to the officers concerned. The credit is mainly due to Mr. E. Molony, the Divisional Commissioner, and Mr. W. LeF. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner.

9. The number of boats, large and small, employed in the Dinagepore transport service is not less than 500, and of carts not less than 5,000.

10. It may perhaps be said that the better plan would be to concentrate the transport on fewer routes. But on consideration I do not think that any such plan would be preferable.

11. By the selection of so many divers routes, the following advantages have been secured:—

1st.—The several rivers have been made use of, whereby the sending of the carts to great distances from their homes has been avoided.

2nd.—The carts have been sent to only one distant point—namely, Godagaree on the Ganges, and that by a well-known trade route.

3rd.—The difficulty of collecting fodder for all the cattle on one or two main routes has been avoided.

4th.—There is less chance of failure and disaster when many alternative routes are available.

12. I have thought over the matter carefully together with the Relief Commissioner; and I believe that in regard to the contour of the country, to the course of the rivers, to the lines of road, and to the position of the depôts, the routes, as above explained, have been well chosen by the authorities concerned.

13. I have requested the Relief Commissioner to obtain a reserve of at least 500 carts (each with a pair of bullocks), as the number of carts now employed is not more than sufficient for the service.

14. There appears, however, to be considerable difficulty in largely augmenting the number of carts, and the question suggests itself as to what large reserve of carriage is there in event of requirement increasing? In such event the reserve consists of pack bullocks, which are obtainable in some thousands in the district itself, and upon which the Commissioner assures me

that he could lay his hand at any moment. Further, pack bullocks could be obtained in Cooch Behar in still greater numbers.

15. It is always to be remembered that during the rainy months there is abundant water carriage available.

16. Passing from the subject of transport, I have still a few points to touch upon.

17. Though much more is yet to be expected from the zemindars before the present trouble is over, still several of them in this district have already distinguished themselves by assisting their tenantry with advances, or by importing grain. I may now mention—

Khetter Mohun Singh, Manager of the Rajbaree Estates in Dinagepore.
Radha Gobind Rai, of Dinagepore.
Jankea Geer Gosahaon, of Raigunj.
Shama Soondrea Dibya, of Neetpore.
Luchmeeput and Dhunput.
Seetal Chund Lahary, of Bochagunj.

The Churamun zemindar has begun to do well, and I trust that his name may soon be added to the above list.

18. I have explained to the Relief Commissioner that there can be no difficulty in granting advances to ryots who may be in distress at present but may yet have some sort of property to pledge. Those ryots who can offer nothing to pledge are generally able to attend the relief works; and I have proposed by a separate Minute (see p. 279, Minute No. 49) that they shall receive subsistence allowance, to be recovered hereafter, for the period during which they are obliged to absent themselves from the works.

19. Regarding seed grain, a subject which attracts much attention, I have not been able after much deliberation with the best authorities, European and native, to propose that anything be done at present by Government. The *bhadoi* or early rice crop is now being sown over a full average area, so nothing need be done as regards that. The *hemantee* or winter rice will not be sown for some little time yet. According to the best-informed opinions, the mahajuns hold this seed grain in sufficient quantities in the expectation of high prices, and it is believed that they must, and will, sell it to the ryots as soon as they see that the people are sustained by the importation of rice by Government. If any thing should have to be done by Government, it may be in the shape of exchanging food rice for seed grain to be retailed by the ryots.

20. I will conclude my remarks on this very important district by stating that the Collector, Mr. E. E. Lowis, is, in all matters relating to the scarcity and distress, a thoughtful and well-informed officer, fully capable of suggesting whatever may be required, and of executing thoroughly the instructions which he may receive.

No. 51.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in, and grain requirements of, the Maldah District, of the Rajshahye Division, dated Maldah, March 18, 1874.

Having marched through the Maldah District and conferred with the Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, and the Collector, Mr. Alexander, regarding the relief operations, I have to record the following observations.

2. As regards the crops, the district may be divided into three parts:—

(1*st*) the part between the Mahanuddee, with its affluent the Kalindree and the Ganges, generally excellent, growing wheat, barley, indigo, mulberry and mangoes;

(2*nd*) the part between the Mahanuddee and the borders of the districts of Dinagepore and of Rajshahye (locally called "the Borind"), generally indifferent, growing rice as a staple, and sparsely populated;

(3*rd*) the part between the Mahanuddee and the Kalindree, partly good but mostly bad; thickly populated.

3. In general terms it may be said that those parts of the district which are within the "spill" of the Ganges, and have spring crops, wheat, &c., are

in good condition; while those parts of the district which have rice crops dependent on rains, or on inundations which failed, are in bad condition.

4. The yield of the rice crop (little or no *bhadoi* and chiefly *amun*) in the Borind did not exceed four annas; in the part between the Kalindree and Mahanuddee, the *bhadoi* was a six-anna crop, and the *amun*, the principal crop, did not exceed four annas.

5. The worst period of the distress will be from 15th June to 15th August, after which time the *bhadoi* rice crop will come in; but even then there will be some distress till the winter rice crop is reaped in December. The *boro* rice crop will afford an intermediate and supplementary supply to some extent during May and June.

6. I asked the Relief Commissioner and the Collector to give me their estimate of the grain requirements of the districts according to the latest data. They give me the following calculation:—

Population of thanna Kurbah	92,011	
of which 30 per cent. = ...		27,603
Population of thanna Gajole	55,316	
of which 25 per cent. = ...		13,829
Population of thanna Gomasthapore	48,999	
of which 15 per cent. = ...		7,349
Population of thannas Maldah and Nawabgunj ...	103,758	
of which 10 per cent=		10,375
Population of thanna Gorgoriba	65,548	
of which 5 per cent.=		3,277
Total population to be considered= ...		62,433
		3
Whose daily consumption at		4)187,299
¾ seer per head per diem		40)46,825 seers.
		1,170 maunds.
		30
and their monthly consumption		35,100 „

Then the requirement will be—

For full number	for 2 months	70,290	maunds
„ half „	for 2 „	35,100	„
„ quarter „...	for 4 „	35,100	„
		1,40,400	„
Add allowance for wastage, 5 per cent. ...		7,020	„
Total requirement ...		1,47,420	„

Or, say 1,50,000 maunds.

7. After going through with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Alexander all the points, I would accept their estimate in the main, and would propose 1,50,000 maunds. I think that this amount will suffice for safety, considering the position of the district in regard to the rivers Ganges and Mahanuddee.

8. One lakh maunds have been already ordered by the local Government (of which 29,000 have arrived), leaving 50,000 maunds to be ordered.

9. If the quantity already arrived shall seem small, then it is to be remembered that a large part of the grain for the Dinagepore District passes through Maldah, and that the authorities have been anxious that all the grain should be pushed on to the more distant localities.

10. The grain for the Maldah District will come by three routes:—

(*1st*) to the Rajmehal Station, East Indian Railway; thence across the Ganges by boats to Manick Chuck; thence by carts to Neema Serai on the Mahanuddee opposite Maldah city, and across the river to the Borind tracts.

(*2nd*) to Sahibgunge Station, East Indian Railway; thence down the Ganges to Hyatpore; and thence by cart to the tracts between the Kalindree and the Mahanuddee.

(*3rd*) to Kooshtea Station, Eastern Bengal Railway; thence by steamer up the Ganges to Godagaree, junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Maldah, and by carts into the Borind tract.

11. The number of carts at present employed amounts to 2,000; but of these the greater part is engaged in the service of the Dinagepore District. It should not be difficult to procure additional carts in the district for the increased allotment of grain which I now propose; and I have drawn the Collector's attention to the subject. Pack bullocks could, if required, be procured in large numbers in the district. On the whole there ought to be no difficulty, as the distance for carting is comparatively short.

12. In consultation with the Relief Commissioner and the Collector, I have fixed the following relief circles, in each of which there will be a sub-committee under the rules:—

Chanchal, for the tract between the Kalindree and Mahanuddee.

Maldah City, for the tract on the left or north bank of the Mahanuddee up to the Poorwa belt of jungle.

Gajole, for the tract north of the jungle to the Dinagepore frontier.

The circles have been so arranged as to admit of every village being inspected once a week under the rules. For these circles officers have been appointed and have joined, all save one. In the Chanchal circle it has been found necessary to appoint two officers. Of the native assistants required, the Collector has appointed one and undertakes to appoint three more.

13. In order to complete the complement of subordinate establishments, I have to ask that two native doctors and one overseer may be despatched to this district.

14. Various relief roads have been projected, the total length of which amounts to 187 miles. It is somewhat unfortunate in this district that in those parts where road-work is most wanted, there are comparatively few laborers to seek relief, and that in those parts where relief laborers are most numerous, there is the least scope for road-making.

15. On the east side of the district there are very many tanks to be excavated or repaired, but very few on the west side.

16. The wages for an adult male on the relief works amounts to 2½ annas per diem, with a proportionably less amount for women and children. At the present time there are 2,250 persons employed on the various relief works.

17. I have authorized the Collector to sell rice to these laborers at the rate of 12 seers to the rupee; but it is not thought necessary as yet to sell Government grain to the public anywhere except in the Chanchal circle.

18. There is some activity of private trade by the water route of the Mahanuddee. The Maldah city on left or north bank of that river is fairly well supplied, and rice sells at 12 to 13 seers the rupee. But the principal mahajuns of the place distinctly told me that people would not import rice largely, because it would not pay them to do so while prices remained so high in the southern and the eastern districts. But in the tracts to the north, near the Dinagepore border, the rate is 10 seers the rupee.

No. 52.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., summarizing statistically the main points regarding the Rajshahye relief Division, dated Maldah, March 18, 1874.

I have now completed my journey through the worst portions of the four districts of the Rajshahye Division where severe distress is expected, *viz.*, the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Maldah, which have been formed by the local Government into a separate relief division under Mr. W. Le F. Robinson as Commissioner. The observations and proposals which I have made regarding each of the districts will be found in Minutes Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48 and 51, dated 11th, 14th, and 16th March. It now remains briefly to summarise the main points under one view.

2. The area and population of the four districts may be stated as follows :—

Districts.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Number per square mile.
Dinagepore	4,126	1,501,924	364
Rungpore	3,476	2,149,972	619
Bogra	1,501	689,467	459
Maldah	1,813	676,426	373
TOTAL ...	10,916	5,017,789	459

3. The number of persons which I have estimated, in consultation with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the worst months of the distress, together with the percentages of such numbers on the population, may be stated thus :—

	Numbers at worst from 2 to 4 months.	Percentage on population.	
Dinagepore	426,530	60 per cent on ...	419,500
		30 " ...	582,766
Rungpore	127,400	20 " ...	123,000
		15 " ...	255,000
		10 " ...	120,000
		50 " ...	18,000
		5 " ...	145,000
Bogra	112,500	30 " ...	258,123
		20 " ...	175,243
Maldah ...	62,433	30 " ...	92,011
		25 " ...	55,316
		15 " ...	48,999
		10 " ...	103,758
		5 " ...	65,548
TOTAL ..	728,863		

4. The provision of Government grain, as already ordered by the local Government, or as now proposed by me, may be thus stated in maunds :—

	Already ordered by local Government.	Additional proposed by me.	Total.	Already advised in District up to 7th March.
Dinagepore ...	10,00,000	2,00,000	12,00,000	2,00,000
Rungpore ...	2,00,000	1,00,000	3,00,000	1,20,000
Bogra ...	50,000	1,90,000	2,40,000	20,000
Maldah ...	1,00,000	50,000	1,50,000	29,000
TOTAL ...	13,50,000	5,40,000	18,90,000	3,69,000

5. I was particularly requested by the Government of Bengal to revise the relief arrangements in these districts and to settle them wherever they remained to be settled. I found that this business was to some considerable extent done in Dinagepore and partly in Rungpore. I have now, in consultation with the local officers, fixed all the circles. Their numbers are as follow :—

	No. of Circles.	European Officers.	Native Officers.	Subordinate Officials. Civil.	Dept. Public Works.	Medical.
Dinagepore ...	13	9	4	29	13	13
Rungpore ...	9	4	5	9	6	9
Bogra	7	3	4	3	6	6
Maldah ...	3	3	2	5	3	3
TOTAL ..	32	19	15	46	28	31

6. All the officers (native and European) have been appointed. Most, though not all of them, have joined. Of the subordinate officials, most of the civil have been appointed, but many have not yet joined. Few only of the medical or Public Works subordinate officials have been appointed, but I have made urgent application for them.

7. The relief works consist chiefly of roads and of tanks. The total length of the roads in miles I give below. The tanks are numerous, but

number cannot be given. The number of laborers as known up to the latest report is also given, but it is increasing daily.

	No. of laborers as known up to 2nd week of March.	Total length of relief roads of district in miles.
Dinagepore	43,500	420
Rungpore	7,000	723
Bogra	3,935	160
Maldah	2,252	187
TOTAL ...	56,687	1,490

8. The rate of wages for an adult male is 2½ annas in the Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra districts per diem, taskwork not being undertaken under 3 annas. The same rates prevail in Maldah.

9. The number of circles in which I have authorized the sale of Government grain under the rules is—

Dinagepore ...	4	Bogra ...	none.
Rungpore ...	3	Maldah ...	1

10. The number of grain depôts in the several districts, nearly all of which depôts contain stores, is as follows :—

Dinagepore	30
Rungpore	15
Bogra	8
Maldah	8
TOTAL ...	61

11. The number of carts employed in the transport of grain in the several districts is as follows : if this number appears small as compared with other divisions, we must remember that in all the districts water carriage is largely used, sometimes by country boats and sometimes by steamers.

	Carts with pair of bullocks.	Country boats.	Steamers.
Dinagepore	5,000	250	...
Rungpore	450	50	1
Bogra	950	20	1
Maldah	2,000	400	1
TOTAL ...	7,700	720	3
Add carts from Purneah District employed in Dinagepore District ...	1,500		
TOTAL ...	9,200		

Pack bullocks not having as yet been employed, a reserve of 1,500 carts has been ordered, 500 for each of the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Maldah.

12. The amount of advances as yet taken by zemindars for the assistance of their tenantry, and the money advanced to traders for the importation of grain from a distance, may be thus approximately given, though it is hoped the amount will be largely increased. In round numbers, zemindars have taken Rs. 90,000; traders Rs. 40,000.

13. The number of persons at present receiving charitable relief may be thus stated for the present, though it is to be feared that the number will now increase :—

	Daily.
Dinagepore	none.
Rungpore	3,460
Bogra	none.
Maldah .	2,936
TOTAL	6,396

In Bogra some relief is given by private subscriptions.

14. No death from want, or from disease caused immediately by want, has as yet been reported from any district.

15. The cause of the distress in all the districts is the partial failure of the summer or *aous* rice crop, and the still greater failure of the winter (*heman-*

tee) rice crop, from scantiness of rain in the summer and autumn of 1873, together with the absence of any considerable cultivation in the distressed tracts of spring crops—wheat and pulses—to make up for loss of rice.

16. The worst period of distress in all the four districts is expected to set in during May, and to last till the middle of August; but the distress will last in some degree till December.

17. Private import trade is tolerably active in the Rungpore, Bogra, and Maldah Districts, but not at all in Dinagepore. Again, the situation of the Dinagepore District is much more difficult than that of the other three districts, because it is isolated at all times, landlocked in the hot season, though enjoying some facilities of water carriage in the rains; whereas the other three are on the banks of the large rivers, navigable by boats or steamers all the year round.

18. Lastly, I desire to speak in high commendation of the Relief Commissioner, Mr. W. LeF. Robinson. His extensive local knowledge, his promptitude in action, and his thoughtful care for the people entitle him to the confidence of Government in the execution of his very important duty.

No. 53.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Rajshahye District, dated Bankipore, March 20, 1874.

After conferring with Mr. Molony regarding the district of Rajshahye, I requested him to prepare the following memorandum. The calculation of persons who may need assistance from Government in certain tracts is in accordance with that for the adjacent tracts of the Dinagepore, Maldah, and Bograh Districts.

2. I would accept the conclusion derivable from the memorandum, to the effect that the allotment of one lakh of maunds of grain already made by the local Government for the Rajshahye district, is sufficient without any addition.

Memorandum of possible requirements of Rajshahye District.

Population of Godagaree		34,683	
„ of Tannore .. .		90,032	
„ of Mandah		92,325	
TOTAL ..		217,040	
of which 10 per cent. ...		...	=21,704
Population of half of Singra ...		79,565	
of which 20 per cent. ...			=15,913
Population of Bagmarrah ...		128,687	
of which 5 per cent.		.	= 6,434
∴ Total population to be considered			=44,051
			3
		4	132,153
		40	33,039
Whose daily consumption at ¾ seer per head per diem will be		Mds.	826
			30
And their monthly consumption			=27,780
Then 2 months at full rates			=49,560 Mds.
„ 2 „ at half „			=24,780
„ 4 „ at quarter rates ..			=24,780
Total for 8 months ...			=99,120

No. 54.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the allotment of grain to the Northern Bengal State Railway, dated Bankipore, March 20, 1874.

In reference to the accompanying copy of a letter (see below) from the Commissioner of Rajshahye (Mr. Molony), I have to state that I am prepared to concur in his view that one lakh of maunds of grain out of the two lakhs allotted will suffice for the Northern Bengal State Railway, and that the other lakh may be made over by Major Lindsay to the Relief Department at such places as Mr. Molony may direct.

2. The lakh thus made over may be considered as a set-off *pro tanto* against the additional provision which I have recommended for the relief division under Mr. Robinson.

Letter from E. W. Molony, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to L. C. Abbott, Esq., on special duty with Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 1*Ct.—S. R., dated Camp Rajmehal, March* 19, 1874.

I have the honor to note, with reference to the increased allotment made on the estimates of the requirements of the Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra Districts, that the amount of grain allotted to the Northern Bengal State Railway, *viz.*, 2,00,000 maunds, has been excluded from the calculation. My opinion is that the railway officials will not be able to distribute more than 1,00,000, and that the second lakh may safely be held as a portion of the several district allotments to be indented for if required by the district officers. I would at the same time recommend that the whole of the 2,00,000 maunds for the railway be stored along the line, as arranged for by Major Lindsay in a recent memorandum sent to the Government of Bengal.

No. 54 A.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the grain requirements of the Godda and Rajmehal sub-divisions of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, dated Bhaugulpore, March 20, 1874.

At Bhaugulpore the Commissioner of the division laid before me certain papers connected with the probable scarcity in the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the district of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Having conferred with the Commissioner, I have to record the following observations :—

Population 240,000. I would take 25 per cent. for four months, equal to 60,000 persons expected to need assistance, which gives at $\frac{3}{4}$ seer per head per diem—

135,000 maunds in all, or
33,750 „ per mensem.

The Commissioner concurs in the above estimate.

I would ask that provision be made of 1,35,000 maunds; arrange that one month's supply be sent quickly to the Rajmehal side, and two months' to the Godda side.

The proportion for the remnant of the period to be kept in reserve.

The sub-divisional officer asks for provision for 50 per cent., but then the *bhadoi* maize was good, equal to half the food-supply of the year; the rice was bad (two to four annas). According to percentages taken in other districts, provision for 25 per cent. should suffice.

Letter from G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department, No. 2353*–S.R., dated Bhaugulpore, March* 23, 1874.

With reference to Government orders No. 1236–S.R., dated 4th instant, I have the honor to submit copy of Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 20th instant (see above), determining the arrangements to be made for the relief and security of Godda and Rajmehal sub-divisions of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. I append also copies of Mr. Baker's report, No. 2, dated 3rd instant (see below), and my note of the 16th idem (see p. 293), which were laid before Sir Richard. The Government are already in possession of other reports upon the subject referred to in the marginal entry at the head of my note.

2. Since Sir Richard's departure I have again met the Officiating Deputy Commissioner and sub-divisional officers of Godda and Rajmehal, from whom I learn that the conditions of carriage are so far good for the transport of grain from all railway stations as to make it unnecessary to store immediately a two months' supply even in the golah sites on the Godda side, which are the furthest removed from the rail. We can begin with a provision for one month all round, and watch the progress of events. Should the consumption of our stocks prove unexpectedly rapid, we must of course supplement them from time to time; but we calculate that working full strength from the beginning of May, we could, if need be, place a full four months' supply, calculated at the rates fixed upon by Sir Richard Temple, within the tracts before the setting in of the rains ; moreover, looking at the short distances of most of the storehouses from the railway, it seems probable that during the rains supplies could continue to be thrown in through the agency of a cooly corps. We thus have two strings to our bow, and can afford to act deliberately and await the turn of events. Upon the point as to the practicability of raising a cooly corps, inquiry will at once be made.

3. I beg that orders may be given to despatch grain according to the arrangement proposed in the annexed table.

4. The present idea is that the necessities of the Sonthal Pergunnahs will be met by a free distribution of works to afford the people employment, and the sale of grain for food to the people on the works. The conditions of the case ascertained up to date encourage this view. Mr. Grant, the sub-divisional officer of Godda, told me yesterday that he had already nearly 10,000 people upon the new road in his charge, and that the Government grain was readily purchased by the laborers, nearly 1,000 maunds having been taken up to date. We have not seen as yet elsewhere in the division similar eagerness to work or desire to purchase Government grain. Under the circumstances of the case, I have directed other roads running through Godda and Rajmehal, which were sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor as long ago as October last, but the commencement of which was kept back by me to be proceeded with ; and I have, as the Government are aware, authorized the local officers to execute bund and tank-works in the Damin-i-koh wherever necessary to give employment.

5. Should the necessity for giving charitable relief arise, the local officers are instructed to do what is needful.

6. Under an arrangement approved by the Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Richard Temple, Colonel Moore takes charge of relief operations in Godda and Rajmehal, subject to the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, and joins his appointment to-morrow. I have furnished him with establishment noted in the margin, to which I solicit sanction. I have thought it well to supply Colonel Moore with a really good man who would assist him.

	Rs. A. P.
1 Clerk for general work, to give security, have charge of cash, and keep accounts	90 0 0
1 Mohurir	20 0 0
TOTAL ...	110 0 0

Distribution of Grain Supplies for the Sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

NOTE.—The supply shown is for one month only

NAME OF SUB-DIVISION.	Name of golah and distance from nearest railway station.	Quantity of grain to be supplied.	Railway station at which to be supplied.	Date of despatch (proposed) from Calcutta.	To whom to be consigned.
		Mds.			
Godda ...	Doe ... 10 miles ...	5,000	All at Peerpointee railway station.	500 maunds on the 4th and 12th April respectively.	The Extra Assistant Commissioner of Godda, Peerpointee station.
	Mahagaon 21 "	5,000			
	Mooraroe ... 10 "	3,000*			
	Barkop . 30 "	3,000			
	Godda ... 40 "	4,000			
Rajmehal ...	Burhait ... 12 "	4,500	Bahawa railway station.	5,500 on the 1st April.	The Deputy Magistrate of Rajmehal, Bahawa station.
	Putna .. 1 "	1,000	Ditto		
	Burio ... 13 "	2,500	Teenpahar	2,500 on 1st April ...	Deputy Magistrate of Rajmehal, Teenpahar railway station.
	Sahebgunge ...	2,000	Sahebgunge	30th March	Deputy Magistrate, Rajmehal, Sahebgunge.
	Banjhee ... 10 miles ...	1,000			
	Taljharee	3,000	Instructions will follow		

* A consignment of 5,000 maunds was sent here under Lieutenant-Governor's orders No. 1344-S.R., dated 9th instant; a second consignment is said to be under despatch, of which I have no intimation. Whatever may have been sent, the difference between such amount and 20,000 maunds should now be forwarded in two instalments.

Letter from E. B. Baker, Esq., Officiating Deputy Inspector General of Police, on special duty, to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, No. 2, dated Camp Sahebgunge, March 3, 1874.

On the 14th ultimo I had the honor to send you, under cover of a demi-official letter, a note on the state of the Rajmehal sub-division in respect of its food-supplies, means of communication with the interior, and the general condition of its population.

2. The above note was written after personal communication with Mr. Stewart, the officer in charge of the Rajmehal sub-division, and inspection of the country lying at the eastern base of the hills, about Taljharee, where there are a good many Sonthal villages, and of portions of Pergunnahs Jumonee and Chetalea, in which distress was apprehended.

3. Subsequently I visited the villages lying at the foot of the hills on the north, making myself acquainted with the condition of the people and with the best means of providing relief; then joining the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, who had arrived from Doomka, we went up together from Teenpahar to Burio, and thence northwards towards Banjhee along the road now being made to Sahebgunge. Leaving Mr. Boxwell at Burio I next went westward to Boarijore, and then turning to the north I met Mr. Grant (the officer in charge of the Godda sub-division) at Moraroe, and intended afterwards to visit the neighbourhood of Godda itself; but the accounts furnished by Mr. Grant of the condition of the people in portions of his jurisdiction were so serious, and my own observations so convincing of the necessity for immediate action, that I thought it prudent to change my route, and to proceed to Bhaugulpore to inform you personally of the state of things.

4. Having yesterday laid before you all the information I had gathered, and having with you gone through the latest reports from the district and sub-divisional officers, I believe it will be sufficient if I now repeat briefly in writing the results of my inquiries, and the suggestions which present themselves to my mind as best suited to meet the necessities of the tracts threatened with famine.

5. The opinion expressed by me in my communication of the 14th ultimo, as to the certainty of distress arising from scarcity of food in the Rajmehal sub-division, has been confirmed by further observations, and I now believe that the distress will be greater than I was then prepared to admit. The Godda Damun-i-koh is in a similar condition to that of the Rajmehal sub-division, while portions of the open country at the foot of the hills is in a worse state in Godda than in Rajmehal.

6. The Sonthals are, up to the present, in good case, looking sleek and well-fed. Their villages swarm with children, there is no want of cattle and poultry about the fields and homesteads, and the signs of the threatened famine are in the appearance of the rice fields, the almost total absence of green crops and straw stocks, the anxiety of the people regarding food for the next six months, and the high price of grain where it is ordinarily cheap. A bad crop of rice in 1872, followed by a much worse in 1873, would cause distress among a comparatively well-to-do and thrifty race; the Sonthals, however, are the contrary, and few among them look much beyond the present day. Even now, though they declare they have only food for a very little while longer, they are quiet and resigned, and appear to rely with unbounded faith upon the Government and its officers.

Fortunately there was an excellent harvest of maize last August, which has mainly provided them with food up to date, and some may still be in store in the houses of the better sort.

The reported exportation of this grain seems to me a matter quite apart from the question of the existence of a sufficient stock of food in hand. Some grain, whatever it may chance to be, must be sold to provide clothing, implements, salt, and other necessaries of life, and some is the property of the merchant, who has made advances for it, as soon as it is cut. Rice not being forthcoming this season, a part of the maize has perforce been sold and exported.

There is every promise of an abundant mango crop, which, with roots, wild sag, and mowa, will help the people through the hot season.

7. Hitherto I have referred only to the Sonthals, because the Pahareeas keep altogether aloof from us, and shew no signs of distress present or prospective. I have conversed with a few, who spoke rather coolly of their prospects, and I saw but one on road-work. I suspect therefore that they have in store a sufficient supply of maize and are independent of our assistance.

8. Besides Sonthals and Pahareeas, there are only about 2,000 other people, Bengalees, Beharees, &c., in the Godda and Rajmehal Damun-i-koh, such as shop-keepers, money-lenders, and traders in general.

9. The tract of country which I believe to be threatened with famine is that between the Ganges on the north, the railway on the east, and a line drawn a little south of Bahawa to a little south of Godda on the south, and a line from Godda to Peerpointee on the west. The whole of the country between these lines will, I fear, be in distress from the beginning of April to middle of August more or less; more in the north and west, less in the south and east.

In some parts, such as Muniharee and the villages along the foot and outside the hills, the distress is already commencing.

I have read Mr. Boxwell's reports to you, and I agree with him generally; but I believe he takes too sanguine a view of the condition of the Damun-i-koh, and my estimate coincides more closely with those of the sub-divisional officers, Messrs. Stewart, Bedford, and Grant.

10. The entire population of the above tract of country is, according to the census, 246,122, as shewn in the margin; adding a few villages lying outside the Rajmehal Damin, and within Pergunnahs Jumonee and Chetalea, we may accept 250,000 as representing the total population affected by the present scarcity.

Rajmehal ...	... 99,462
Godda in the Damun-i-koh ...	... 86,660
„ outside „ about	... 60,000
TOTAL	. 246,122

11. In my first note I calculated on 15 per cent. as likely to require relief, but I am now satisfied that I was then much below the mark. It is very difficult to form a correct idea of the proportion likely to be on our hands—it may be 30 per cent. or it may be 60 per cent. Unlike the rural population of Bengal and Behar, where various degrees of wealth and poverty co-exist, the Sonthals are, I think, much more on a par generally, there being among them few men of superior possessions and few altogether indigent. The estimate of the actual numbers requiring help I would prefer to leave with the sub-divisional officers, who are better able to calculate them, but I cannot think it will fall much short of half the population, say, in round numbers, 100,000, after deducting the Pahareeas, who may amount to between 20,000 and 30,000. The census returns do not distinguish between them and the Sonthals, but they cannot be more than 10 or 15 per cent. of the latter people.

12. The number to be fed being then 100,000, the period, 150 days (from middle of March to middle of August), and the daily ration half a seer, we obtain 1,87,500 as the quantity of grain in maunds for which there may be a demand between date and July; or allowing for wastage and losses, say two lakhs of maunds, half of which may be rice and half mukai and janera.

13. The roads into the Damun-i-koh are (1) from Bahawa to Burhait, (2) from Teenpahar to Burio, (3) from Sahebgunge to Banjhee. The first is a good cart-road, the second is nearly ready for carts, but the third, I fear, will be only open for pack-bullocks.

The Godda Damun and distressed tracts can be easily penetrated by the road now being made from Godda to Peerpointee. That portion of the road lying in the Bhaugulpore District, *viz.*, the last 3 or 4 miles to the railway station, is in a very backward state.

A good cart tract lies between Burhait and Banjhee, which may be converted into a good road all the year round.

14. Such being the condition of things, there need be no difficulty in feeding the distressed population if grain be put down at the railway stations above indicated. The sub-divisional officers state that there will be sufficiency of carriage at all those points.

15. I need not enter now upon the relief works to be undertaken, as they have been already decided upon and some are in progress; but I strongly advo-

cate the construction of water reservoirs and digging out of old and new tanks as likely to be of the most permanent benefit to the people, and in fact to the Government in future.

16. The first supply of grain should be forwarded to Peerpointee, say 5,000 maunds immediately, to be followed by 5,000 more very soon; also, 5,000 maunds to each of the other stations at Sahebgunge, Teenpahar, and Bahawa, in all 25,000 maunds, before the middle of this month. Perhaps it will be best to send up only 1,000 maunds at a time to the last three railway stations.

17. I think it will be desirable to divide the distressed tract into four divisions, and to appoint an active European officer to each to superintend both food-supply and relief works, the latter under the general direction of the Executive Engineer. The centres of these divisions might be (1) Doee or Mahgama on the Godda road, (2) Sahebgunge, (3) Burio, and (4) Burhait.

18. Golahs will be needed at all these places, except Peerpointee, where there is a large railway shed, and at Sahebgunge, where there is a pucca serai available. Golahs will also be required at Barkop and Mohagawan after that at Doee has been established.

19. Something may be done through the bazaar chowdries for the sale of grain at distances from the central depôts, either by supplying them with Government grain at a fixed rate to be retailed also at fixed prices, allowing a fair sum for carriage and profit, or by selling through them as paid agents, and Government defraying the cost of transport. As before remarked, if we get the grain, I think there will be no difficulty in dealing with its distribution and sale, always premising that the retail price fixed be not beyond the means of the people working as laborers at the daily rates now allowed. Perhaps 13 seers for the rupee, or Rs. 3 per maund, may be suitable, or not less than 12 seers for the rupee retail.

20. It is probable that relief committees will shortly be needed at Rajmehal, Sahibgunge, and Godda to deal with stray cases of poverty and distress.

21. If any non-commissioned officers and sepoys can be spared from the regiment at Bhaugulpore, they can be usefully employed in protecting the transport of grain; otherwise additional police must be enlisted.

22. The highest price of grain heard of by me was at Moraroe and hâts adjacent, where rice was offered for sale at 8 seers for the rupee and few or no buyers. The price generally in the Damun-i-koh appeared to be 10 seers for the rupee, and the stocks extremely small.

23. I believe I have now touched upon all the subjects to which my attention was directed in your letter No. 818 S.-R., dated 10th ultimo, and that it will be better not to encumber this report with matters of pure detail which can be dealt with separately.

24. I proceed to-day to Peerpointee as requested by you, where I shall await further instructions relative to my future movements.

Note by G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, on the Sonthal Pergunnahs, dated Bhaugulpore, March 16, 1874.

In connection with the papers noted on the margin, the question has now to be decided whether any, and if so what, measures have to be taken to secure certain portions of the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the Sonthal Pergunnahs from the effects of scarcity.

1. Report from Rajmehal sub-division by Mr. E. B. Baker, Deputy Inspector General of Police, dated 14th February 1874.
2. Report upon part of Godda sub-division by Mr. F. Grant, sub-divisional officer, dated 22nd idem.
3. Report upon both sub-divisions by Officiating Deputy Commissioner, dated 27th idem.
4. Report upon part of Godda sub-division by Mr. Baker, dated 3rd instant.

Notes of personal communications made by Messrs. Boxwell, Grant, and Stewart, the Deputy Commissioner and sub-divisional officers.

2. Speaking in general terms, it may be said that the tract regarding which fears are entertained comprises the entire tract of the Government estate Damun-i-koh, situate in the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal, and the plain country below the hills in the former sub-division, which is included in a line drawn from Gobindpore (marked in the map north, near the East Indian Railway), south through Godda, and thence direct eastward to the hills.

Vide statements of Messrs. Grant and Stewart.

Vide paragraph 9 of Mr. Baker's report of 3rd instant.

The strip of land between the hills and the river on the north is also considered to be in danger by Mr. Baker.

3. It is known that the *aughanee* rice crop within this area suffered seriously from drought during the past year, and was to a great extent a failure. The *bhadoi* crop was a good one. The reports of the officers who inspected the country during October and November, while the crops were on the ground, are to hand, and they state as follows.

In his No. 1304 of 17th October 1873, Mr. Stewart, sub-divisional officer of Rajmehal, stated:—

"*Bhadoi dhan* is produced in the low country bordering the Ganges and in the dearas. This was about a ten to twelve-anna crop. Indian corn is also a *bhadoi* crop; this was a sixteen-anna crop both in and outside the Damun. These crops have been gathered, and I should say on the whole the *bhadoi* crop has been a fourteen-anna one." Reporting on the 7th November following, the same officer estimated the *aughanee* rice crop at about three annas yield. The highest estimate reached for one out of six pergunnahs being six annas, and a further report dated 14th idem gave the same result for two other pergunnahs. In the sub-division the food consumed by the people is thus described. The people outside the Damun eat rice; the Sonthals, rice and greens of various kinds: they however eat also the flesh of almost any animal. The Paharias ordinarily consume maize, and only take to rice when this is expended. The October report for Godda was made by the Sub-Deputy and endorsed by Mr. Bedford, the sub-divisional officer, who had just rejoined. It is stated that of *bhadoi* crops the principal one was *janera*, which had "abundantly grown" during the year, and was calculated at fourteen annas in the rupee. The rice crop was estimated at not more than a four-anna outturn.

A further detailed report was received on 7th November. In this the rice crop in all Pergunnah Godda was stated to be "fair;" in Bellathan, as only likely to yield one anna (this pergunnah at the best of seasons only yields little rice); in Passai, favorable; and over the Damun, as more or less unfavorable, according to the situation, the crop being preserved here and there by irrigation. It was specially noticed in this report that the pergunnah of Muniharee (for which some importation has just been made by Government) was likely to suffer more than others, the entire rice crop having withered and being grazed off by the cattle. The outturn was put down at *nil*.

On the 20th November, the sub-divisional officer, having carefully marched through the northern part of his district, reported that the crops in tuppas Berkop and Patsunda (to the west of the line representing the line of present anticipated distress) would be seven to six annas respectively, while the prospects of Muniharee were "most gloomy." Again, on 30th November, he added: "The more I see of the *dhan* crop the more I come to the conclusion that the average rice crop expected, as shown in my report to the Commissioner in the early part of November, was under-estimated."

4. It is stated in the annual report for 1872 that the rice crop of that year did not exceed a ten to twelve-anna crop.

Vide statements of Messrs. Grant and Stewart, and paragraph 12 of Deputy Commissioner's No. 38Ct., dated 27th ultimo; also paragraph 4 of Deputy Commissioner's No. 69Ct. of 11th instant.

5. The part of the country concerned is not to any extent a rubbee producing country. The investigations of the local officers show that there is very little cold weather crop now in the ground.

6. As to present conditions, the people are said to be growing anxious for work. Upon two roads which have been lately opened throughout the length of Godda and Rajmehal, the numbers of laborers are counted at close upon 4,800 and 800 respectively; in the former case, the increase has been rapid, but the people are said to be well fed, and there is no appearance of want visible. Prices of food are at present generally cheaper throughout the pergunnahs than in the other districts of the division, and, as compared with what prevailed in these localities in 1866 (a year of scarcity), results appear on the margin.

Rajmehal 14th March.

	1866.	1874.
	Seers.	Seers.
Rice	12	11½ to 13
Maize	20	16 to 17

Godda 14th March.

	1866.	1874
	Seers.	Seers.
Rice	14	12
Maize	14	16½

7. Opinions as to the measures necessary to be taken differ. Mr. Baker, an officer of experience, who was specially deputed to visit the pergunnahs, in his report of the 3rd instant, declares that it is absolutely necessary to import and store grain to meet the distress amongst the people, which he believes to be imminent. The sub-divisional officers of Rajmehal and Godda both strongly concur in this opinion (*vide* their statement and Mr. Grant's report of the 22nd ultimo). Mr. Boxwell, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, does not consider that the importation of food need form part of the system of relief. He wishes indeed to have a store of some 50,000 maunds placed in the district, to be available in case of a sudden deficiency of supplies occurring; but he would not offer food upon the works, as he is of opinion that the people have grain of their own sufficient to last them at least for a period of six weeks .

8. In reply to inquiry from me, the missionary of Taljharee (Mr. Brown) writes of the whole country of Godda and Rajmehal, with which he declares himself to be acquainted, that as compared with ordinary years and with regard to food-supply, the condition of the people is now what it usually is in the month of July, "when they are wanting or waiting for the maize crop." In other words, there is a clear deficiency of four months' supply of food for the people; and he advocates a liberal recourse to works to assist the population, and importation of food for them to buy, as there is no trade.

9. The population of the tract under consideration may be taken at about 240,000. It is observed that the expectation that there will be a short food-supply, which is entertained by those who, as being on the spot, are best qualified to judge, is based upon the fact that one of the main crops of the year was bad; a second, the rubbee (which, however, is not a crop of first importance) being also deficient. I cannot, however, forget that the *bhodoi* crop, which is a great one in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, was good, and the people are a hardy race, able to supplement their food-supplies by recourse to animal food and jungle produce. As an example of this, the year 1866 may be pointed to, when they passed through a crisis with but little assistance, and without any importation of food on the part of Government.

Rajmehal Damun-i-koh ...	99,462
Godda	86,660
Ditto outside Damun-i-koh, taking one-fourth as distressed	50,000
TOTAL ...	236,122

10. For such reasons I consider the calculation that 50 to 60 per cent. of the population may require food-supply at the hands of Government far too high, and I should doubt if the number will be found to come to 30 per cent. Taking, however, this last figure for the purpose of estimate, the total food-supply for the population concerned would be 1,62,000 maunds for four months at $\frac{3}{4}$ seer a head.

11. Acting upon this estimate, I would proceed in the following manner. In the case of golahs numbered 2, 3, and 4, I would place now a two months' supply, and in every other instance a one month's supply, calculated on the above basis. From the 1st of May onwards to the commencement of the rains, the grain expended from the stores should be recouped and additions to the stock then made, until at golahs numbers 2, 3, and 4 there should be a four months' stock, and at the other golahs a three months' stock, available for consumption from the 1st of June, calculated at such new rates as the condition of affairs then ascertained may lead us to decide upon. In the case of the golahs 2, 3, and 4, as the communication will be difficult during the rains, the stores should be completed during the dry weather; in the other cases a month's supply, or more if it be necessary, could be conveyed even during the rains.

1. Doe 10 miles from Poerpointee station. 2. Mohagaon, 21 ditto ditto. 3. Borkope. 4. Godda, 40 ditto ditto.	Storage places for Godda sub-division.
5. Burhait, 12 miles from Bahawa station. 6. Borio, 12 ditto Teenpahar. 7. Taljharee on the Railway, but no station; yet an arrangement to deposit grain can be made with East India Railway. Banjhee, 10 miles from Sahibgunge. *Note*—In Godda the bulk of supplies is expected to be required at Doe and Mohagaon.	Storage places for Rajmehal sub-division.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, No. 1810 *S.-R., dated Calcutta, March* 26, 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2353 S. R., dated 23rd March (see p. 289), forwarding Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 20th idem, together with certain other papers, regarding the condition of the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts Sir Richard Temple's estimate, that 1,35,000 maunds of Government grain should be stored in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, of which 34,000 maunds are to be sent at once. Out of this quantity, 10,000 maunds have already been sent to Peerpointee, and the rest shall reach the stations named before the 10th April, if possible. Subsequent despatches shall be sent off as the Sonthal officers are ready to carry it away and the needs of other districts admit.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor looks to you and to Mr. Boxwell, to see that ample relief works are actually opened, and are well managed throughout all the bad tracts. The influx of 10,000 work-people on to one road, and the sale of 1,000 maunds of Government grain thereon, seem to show that relief was much wanted. It must be fully understood that the Public Works officials are to work under the sub-divisional and relief officers. The establishment you have sanctioned for Colonel Moore is approved.

4. If things in any part of the pergunnahs get suddenly worse, you will have to do something beyond giving a general order such as is summarized in your 5th paragraph. Meanwhile it will be necessary for you to take care that there is no clashing of orders or authority between Colonel Moore and the sub-divisional officers of Godda and Rajmehal.

No. 55.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the organization of a reserve (North-Western Provinces) transport train for North Behar, dated Allahabad, March 23, 1874.

Having inspected the head-quarters of the reserve transport train in company with Mr. Rivett-Carnac (the Commissioner) and his two staff officers, Captain Apperley and Lieutenant Vivian, and having carefully considered the best means of efficiently organizing the train for service in the distressed tracts of Behar, I have to prescribe the following organization, which has been to some extent tried already, and is proved by this experience to work well.

2. The reserve transport train, consisting of carriage and cattle purchased for Government in the districts of the North-Western Provinces, is to consist of at least 2,000 carts, with full complement of bullocks. It seems probable that the local orders in the districts may raise the number somewhat above the 2,000.

3. The train is to be divided into detachments. Each detachment is to be made up of 250 carts, with their complement of one driver and two to four bullocks for each cart; and is to be directed by the following officers and men:—

European officer in command of detachment	1
Duffadars (native officers)	5
Sepoys...	25
TOTAL ...	31

Thus there will be one native officer to every 50 carts and one sepoy to every 10 carts.

4. Thus also the 2,000 carts will be divided into eight detachments. If the purchases shall exceed 2,000 carts, then the surplus is to be formed and made up to a ninth detachment.

5. I consider that nothing short of the above establishment will suffice to ensure the good working of the train on service. The amount of work obtainable from the carts depends greatly on the strength and efficiency of the organization.

6. The Commissioner is authorized to apply to the head-quarters of the army for the sanction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for the services of such officers and men as may be required for the establishment to be constituted as above.

7. The Commissioner's staff, for the management of the train, should continue to consist, as at present, of two officers, together with one sergeant and such small temporary ministerial establishment as the Commissioner may find necessary.

8. With each train there will be despatched :—

Native Carpenters	2
„ Blacksmiths	2
„ Farriers	2
„ Orderlies for the officer commanding . ..	2
TOTAL ...	8

These men will be appointed by the Commissioner.

9. Together with each detachment, spare wheels, axles, shoes for bullocks, rope, and some stores, gear, &c.,—also two sets of scales to weigh the fodder provided for the cattle on the road, a supply of medicines for the men and also for the cattle,—will be sent. There will also be a treasure chest for paying for supplies on the road, with four native constables in charge.

10. The carts of the several detachments are to start from Allahabad fully laden with the reserve fodder for the general transport service in Behar. This fodder, having been selected and purchased in the North-Western Provinces, is never to be expended (save under urgent necessity) on the road; but it is to be carried intact to Patna. The fodder for the convoy to Patna is to be indented for and supplied by the district authorities in the usual manner.

11. On arrival at Bankipore (Patna) the officer commanding each detachment will place himself under the orders of Colonel MacGregor, who, under the general direction of the Commissioner (Mr. Bayley), directs the transport service in Behar north of the Ganges.

12. I particularly desire that the organization as established at Allahabad be permanently maintained by Colonel MacGregor for each detachment after its arrival at Patna, and that no general alteration be made without previous reference to me. If in any case it be found necessary to employ the carts in separate parties, still the organization should be preserved as much as possible. If, for instance, 50 carts have to be sent on particular duty, their duffadar and their (five) sepoys would go with them.

13. The detachments are to be designated by letter, A, B, C, and so on consecutively, according to the dates on which they started from Allahabad; and each detachment will bear its distinctive letter throughout the service. Similarly the carts and cartmen are to be numbered 1, 2, 3, and so on consecutively; and each cart will keep its number throughout the service.

14. I am glad to find that already four detachments have left Allahabad; the sooner the remaining detachments follow the better.

15. The accounts of each detachment are kept by the European officer, and submitted to the Commissioner. They are then audited by the Accountant General (Allahabad). But after placing himself under Colonel MacGregor, the officer in charge of a detachment will submit his account through Colonel MacGregor.

16. In conclusion, it seems to me that the interests of the service in North Behar have been greatly promoted by the prompt orders given by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for meeting our requisition for reserve carriage, and by the vigorous co-operation of the Hon'ble J. D. Inglis in giving effect to these orders.

17. Mr. Inglis informs me that the manner in which this important business has been executed by the Commissioner (Mr. Rivett-Carnac) has given entire satisfaction to the authorities of the North-Western Provinces, and all that I have seen of the working of the affair leads me to the same opinion.

No. 56.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the augmentation of the subordinate medical establishments, dated Allahabad, March 23, 1874.

The experience now being gained, day by day, shows me that the subordinate medical establishment in the distressed districts, despite recent augmentations, is hardly strong enough, and that we have already obtained all, or nearly all, the men that are obtainable in the Bengal Presidency.

2. But it seems to me that some men of this class might be obtained from the Madras and Bombay Presidencies: say 20 from Madras, and 10 from Bombay. The Madras medical subordinates are (as I well know from experience in the Central Provinces) very well trained men.

3. Besides the medical establishments for the relief circles, there will be subsidiary departments formed from time to time, to which it might be very desirable to attach medical subordinates.

4. For instance, the reserve transport train would be all the better for the aid of such men. But unless we can obtain some men from the other Presidencies, I know not how any such need can be supplied.

No. 57.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the additional grain requirements of the Tajpore Sub-division of the Tirhoot District, dated Bankipore, March 24, 1874.

The Commissioner (Mr. Bayley) has shown me two reports by Mr. Wace, the sub-divisional officer at Tajpore, regarding the grain requirements of that sub-division.

2. Mr. Wace's estimates are based on the numbers (calculated by percentages on the total population in each tract) of persons who may be expected to need assistance.

3. The quantity thus brought out comes to 66,000 maunds of grain, out of which 8,000 maunds are already stored at Poosa, leaving 58,000 maunds to be sent.

4. The question is whether the 58,000 maunds should be added to the total requirement of the Tirhoot District already presented (42,00,000 maunds).

5. I think not: the quantity required for Tajpore can be taken at the discretion of the Commissioner out of the general supplies of the Tirhoot District.

No. 58.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the organization of a reserve transport train, from the Shahabad District, dated Bankipore, March 25, 1874.

After considering the progress made with the collection of reserve carriage from the Shahabad District through the agency of Mr. Fox, I find that about 500 carts are ready, and that about 250 will be very shortly ready; in all 750.

2. Mr. Fox has collected 1,000 cart bullocks, and Colonel Mackenzie 600; in all 1,600. Thus there are enough bullocks for 750 carts, which are made to be drawn by pairs of bullocks.

3. I desire these be organized in the same manner as that prescribed in my Minute No. 55 of 23rd March, regarding the North-West reserve transport; and that the organization be entrusted to Mr. Rivett-Carnac and his staff, through whom the work has been done so successfully at Allahabad. This part of the work will be done at Dinapore or Arrah. Mr. Carnac is aware of the necessity for the utmost expedition possible.

4. There will be three detachments lettered and numbered consecutively with the Allahabad detachments.

5. These detachments, as well as the Allahabad detachments, will be handed over by Mr. Carnac to Colonel MacGregor on the north or left bank of the Ganges in complete order.

6. Colonel Mackenzie and Mr. Fox should be instructed to make over the carts and cattle to such person as Mr. Carnac may appoint at Dinapore or Arrah.

7. Mr. Carnac is authorized to apply to the Adjutant General for the sanction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for such officers and men as may be necessary under the above orders.

8. There would still remain 250 carts with bullocks to make up the complement of 1,000 to be obtained from the Shahabad District—that is, the difference between 750 and 1,000.

9. Out of the 750 carts with bullocks to be hired from the North-Western Provinces, about 550 have been hired, leaving a balance of 200 carts with bullocks.

10. Adverting to the reserve of pack bullocks, I find that out of the 6,000 total ordered, only 750 have actually been purchased. I am separately considering the reasons why the supply is so short at this date.

11. However, looking to the extremely large number of bullocks already employed in Tirhoot and in the other districts, and after consulting the Commissioner (Mr. Bayley) and his officers, I consider it preferable to make up our remaining numbers by animals other than bullocks.

12. As the season will not be suitable for camels, we must look to the ponies and the pack donkeys which are procurable in large numbers in the North-Western Provinces. The ponies are specially serviceable.

13. The collection of the animals will be entrusted to Mr. Carnac. He will be good enough to obtain, with the utmost possible expedition, such numbers as he may find on precise calculation to be needed to make up the balance as above set forth—

1st.—Of the Shahabad carts with bullocks.
2nd.—Of the hired North-West carts.
3rd.—Of the pack bullocks.

14. Mr. Carnac is requested to arrange at once with Colonel MacGregor as to the organization of these large numbers of ponies and pack donkeys. If possible, I desire that the two officers should arrive at an agreement as to the organization. Any arrangement in which they shall concur is to be carried out by Mr. Carnac without further reference to me. And he is authorized to apply to the Adjutant General for such officers and men as may be needed.

15. If there should be difference of opinion between the two officers as to the best mode of organization, then reference must be immediately made to me. But I hope that this will not be necessary.

16. Mr. Carnac has been duly impressed with the importance of using all practicable expedition.

17. The Government of the North-Western Provinces will be addressed to the effect of this Minute.

18. The Commissioner of Patna has been requested to cease purchasing bullocks.

No. 59.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on deputation allowances to N. W. P. famine relief officers, dated Bankipore, March 25, 1874.

I have consulted with Sir William Muir and Mr. Inglis regarding the granting of allowances to the Deputy Collectors and other officers lent by the North-West Government for famine relief work; and Mr. Inglis, at my request, kindly drew up the accompanying note on the subject.

2. The proposals therein contained seem to me to be very moderate. I would strongly recommend that the allowances set forth in Mr. Inglis' note be sanctioned.

Note by the Hon'ble J. D. Inglis, dated Allahabad, March 23, 1874.

Deputation allowance to be drawn by Deputy Collectors and other native officers sent to Behar.

The Deputy Collectors ordered down are—

Kour Luchmun Singh.
Pundit Ajodya Pershad.
Mahomed Mohsin.
Enayat Hosain Khan.

Kour Luchmun Singh draws Rs. 600 a month; the others draw Rs. 250.

The tehsildars sent down draw Rs. 200 a month; the peshkars draw Rs. 50 a month.

Deputy Collectors when in camp in these Provinces draw a travelling allowance of Rs. 3 a day, or Rs. 90 a month. Considering that these men are to be employed at a distance from home and in a province where prices are at famine rates, I think they should while in Bengal receive a slightly higher allowance.

The duties that the officers of the rank of deputy collectors or tehsildars will be employed on will be of the same description. Their responsibilities and expenses will be the same. I would therefore propose that officers of these classes should draw a fixed deputation allowance of Rs. 100 a month, and not an allowance calculated by a percentage on their salaries.

The peshkars should, I think, get an allowance of Rs. 50 a month.

No. 60.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Gya District of the Patna Division, dated Bankipore, March 25, 1874.

Doubts having been expressed by the Bengal Government as to the safety of the Gya district in respect to the scarcity, I sent, about the middle of February last, for the Collector (Mr. Palmer), and carefully considered with him the records of the outturn of the winter crop, and the prospects of the spring crop; also the particular parts of the district where distress might be expected to first occur, and the position of the various grain depôts. I also had the advantage of conferring with several native gentlemen, zemindars and others, who possess lands in that district.

2. The result was that I considered that the grain then stored, under orders of the local Government, at the various depôts of the district, was sufficient to enable the district authorities to deal effectively with any distress that could reasonably be expected; and that nothing more need be done until the spring harvest should be secured, and the final estimate for the requirements of grain for the district could be framed.

3. The time has now come when, the spring harvest having been either reaped or assured, the final estimate can be no longer delayed. I have therefore, together with the Commissioner, Mr. Bayley, and the Collector, reconsidered the position of the district, and I beg to record the following observations.

4. The tracts which produce the winter crops (rice) and those which produce the spring crops (wheat, &c.) are interspersed all over the district. The Indian-corn (autumn crop) is not of considerable importance. The rice crop was indifferent in the upper portion of the district, having a four-anna yield;

worse towards the centre, two to three annas yield; better towards the south-east and south-west, with a yield of twelve annas. The spring crop has turned out well, especially towards the western boundary of the district on the banks of the Soane, having derived much benefit from the late rains, and will afford a full average yield. But then, owing to the area sown having been less than usual (from want of autumnal rains), the yield of what may be called the total rubbee area is from eight to ten annas. Some of the works on the Soane Canal are being carried out in this district along the right bank of the Soane, but the principal works are on the left bank in the Shahabad District.

5. The district adjoins that of Patna, where the crops are good. On its western boundary is the Soane, the canals from which water considerable tracts. The facilities for trade are fairly good; and the district is permeated by two trunk roads. The worst part of the district in respect to crops has facilities for supervision, being situated close to the civil station of Gya itself.

6. The Commissioner and the Collector consider that the distress will begin in April and will reach its maximum between the beginning of May and the end of June. It will be mitigated in July, and gradually diminish from the end of September till the end of November, when it will cease.

7. The Collector having been requested by me to offer a final estimate of the requirements of grain according to the same principle as that adopted for the other districts, offers the following estimate of the number which may be expected to need Government assistance at the worst season :—

Thannah.	Persons who may need assistance from Government.
Urwal	5,000
Daoodnuggur	3,000
Aurungabad	10,000
Nubeenuggur	5,000
Sherghotty	7,000
Gya	11,000
Barahchutty	4,300
Uttrie	7,000
Tikaree	8,000
Jehanabad	12,000
Nowada	17,000
Rajowlee	4,000
TOTAL ...	93,300

which number represents between 4 and 5 per cent. of the total population of the district.

8. In this estimate the Commissioner concurs, except that he considers it somewhat high. The numbers are obtained by calculating the percentages of persons who will need assistance on the population of each thannah division of the district; the percentage varying according to the circumstances of each thannah.

9. I calculate that the whole of this number (say 93,000) will have to be assisted for two months, half the number for three months, one quarter for one month, and one-eighth for two months. Thus we should have, at $\frac{3}{4}$ seer per head per diem, the requirement of the district in maunds of grain as follows :—

	Maunds.
Two months, at full rates	1,04,624
Three months, at half rates	78,468
One month, at one-fourth rates	13,078
Two months, at one-eighth rates	13,078
	2,09,248
Add 5 per cent. for wastage	10,462
TOTAL ...	2,19,710

or roundly a total of 2,20,000 maunds for the whole district.

10. Upon the estimate as above set forth I recommend that the amount of 2,20,000 maunds be provided by Government for the Gya District. There are 1,50,000 maunds already ordered by the local Government (of which 1,40,000 have been stored), leaving 70,000 maunds yet to be ordered.

11. It is desired that of the additional quantity of 70,000 maunds one-third should consist of mixed grains and two-thirds of rice. I have accordingly to ask that 45,000 maunds of rice (in addition to previous orders) be despatched to the Buktiarpore and Bankipore Stations for the service of the Gya District. The remainder, or 25,000 maunds mixed grains, will be purchased through the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and I have directed the Commissioner accordingly.

12. The Collector reports that there will be no difficulty in obtaining carts for the conveyance of the additional 70,000 maunds.

13. There are 4 main depôts for grain in the district, and 17 subordinate depôts.

14. Though there will be distress in some slight degree scattered over the district, still the Collector and the Commissioner consider that there is not any tract in any part of the district which could be marked down as uniformly or generally distressed. I therefore do not see the necessity for marking off relief circles, such as those fixed for the distressed districts.

15. But every part of the district will need to be frequently visited by responsible native officials, to bring forward incidental cases of distress, and to see that relief works are placed within reach of all those who may be seeking employment, and to take the necessary measures in any emergent cases which may come before them. For this important purpose the Commissioner and the Collector consider that four supervisors (one for each main sub-division of the district) should be appointed, and four deputies. As the Commissioner and Collector report that they cannot obtain locally the men required, I have asked the Government of the North-Western Provinces for the services of four tehsildars, leaving the Collector to appoint the four deputies on salaries not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem.

16. I find that various relief roads have been projected, the total length of which amounts to 185 miles. Our main reliance must be placed on these, inasmuch as some of the district is not suited for the excavation of tanks.

17. The relief laborers are as yet few—less than 1,000. Some of them accept piece-work at the somewhat favorable rate of Rs. 1-12 for 1,000 cubic feet. The rest are regarded as an invalid gang, which can do but little work, and receive 1 anna per diem for a man and ¾ anna for a woman.

18. If able-bodied persons come to the work and do not piece-work, the rate will be 2 annas a day for a man, 1¾ annas for a woman, and ½ anna for a child.

19. The Collector seems to be convinced that there is no symptom as yet of any distress. Still considering the circumstances of the district, I am not without apprehension that the number of relief laborers may begin to increase rapidly as soon as the harvest work is over, and I have requested the special vigilance of the Commissioner to this subject.

20. The Collector requires the services of four overseers for his relief works. I have accordingly to ask that these officers may be supplied.

21. I do not find that any additional subordinate medical establishment is needed.

22. The figures given in this Minute are irrespective of the laborers from this district employed on the Soane Canal works. Those are included in the statement given for the canal works as a whole in my Minute No. 61 of to-day's date on the Shahabad District (see below). It will be seen that the Gya District furnishes at least 8,000 men to these works.

23. The following are the prices now quoted in the district. They do not indicate severe scarcity as yet. They were at one time dearer at Gya itself, but that circumstance was locally attributed to special circumstances.

GYA DISTRICT.

Up to 21st March.

	S.	C.
Common rice	11	3
Wheat	12	7
Barley	17	3
Jowar	15	2
Cheena	15	8
Indian-corn	14	3
Gram	15	13

No. 61.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Shahabad District of the Patna Division, dated Bankipore, March 26, 1874.

I have had the advantage of carefully discussing at Patna the affairs of the Shahabad District in relation to scarcity with the Commissioner, Mr. S. Bayley, the Collector, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Levinge, the Superintending Engineer of the Soane Canal Works; and as there are certain points requiring immediate decision, I beg to record the following observations.

2. The district is described by the Collector to have an area interspersed with patches of rubbee (wheat, &c.) and rice crops, so that there is a difficulty in giving a brief and general description. It may be said, however, that the rubbee prevails on the banks of the Ganges and the Soane, which rivers enclose the triangle of the district on two sides. In the centre of the district there is partly rubbee and partly rice. Towards the base of the triangle, forming the western parts of the district, there is more rice near the basin of the Kurumnassa, and some low hills spreading over a considerable tract. In this part the principal place is Sasseram.

3. There are three principal crops:—

The *bhadoi* (Indian-corn)	Autumn.
„ rice	Winter.
„ wheat, &c.	Spring.

The autumn crop had a yield of eight annas; the winter crop a yield of two; the spring crop a yield of ten.

4. The distressed parts of the district will consist mainly of a tract near the centre, south-west of Arrah, the tract around Sasseram, and the tract near the Kurumnassa. These tracts and some other tracts in detail, depending chiefly on rice, have lost nearly all of their year's harvest. But they are situated close to tracts which have good spring crops, and can obtain help from their neighbours. The majority of the people of the district have no reason to feel any distress save that which may arise from the high prices which prevail everywhere.

5. The worst period will be from the 15th April to 15th July, when the distress will become mitigated. After the 15th September the Indian-corn will come into market, when there will be further diminution to the end of November, about which time cessation may be hoped for.

6. As is well known the Soane Canal has its head-works in this district. Its two main lines and their branches have already afforded much irrigation during the present year. Much has in this way been done to avert distress.

7. I requested the Collector to give me an estimate of the numbers who may be expected to need assistance from Government at the worst season. He gives the following numbers, which are obtained by calculating the percentage (of persons who may need assistance) on the population of each thannah in the district, the percentages varying according to the circumstances in each thannah:—

Thannah.	No. of persons who may need assistance.
Peeroo	7,000
Chowsa	8,000
Arrah	8,000
Sasseram	22,000
Bhuboora	30,000
TOTAL ...	75,000

Out of this total, it is estimated that 30,000 persons will be employed on the canal, leaving 45,000 to be provided for by the districts.

8. I calculate that the full number will be needing assistance for three months, half the number for two months, and a quarter for three months. This will give, at ¾ seer per head per diem, a total grain requirement for the district of 1,20,232 maunds, to which I add 5 per cent. for wastage, or 6,011 maunds, bringing up the total to 1,26,243 maunds.

9. I accordingly recommend that 1,27,000 maunds be provided. Already 65,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, leaving 62,000 maunds to be ordered.

10. Mr. Levinge considers that upwards of 60,000 persons will be employed on his canal works at the most active season, and he estimates that 1,90,000 maunds in all should be provided. He is of opinion that, as many of these people will be able-bodied and working hard, one seer a day should be allowed. Already 1,14,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, leaving 76,000 maunds to be ordered.

11. There would thus remain to be ordered—

	Mds.
District	62,000
Canal	76,000
TOTAL ...	1,38,000

The total number of persons would be—

District	45,000
Canal	60,000
TOTAL ...	1,05,000

This would bring up the total provision to—

	Mds.
District	1,27,000
Canal	1,90,000
TOTAL ...	3,17,000

12. It is desired that out of the additional amount to be ordered, the following should consist of rice:—

	Mds.
District	35,000
Canal	40,000
TOTAL ...	75,000

I have accordingly to ask that 75,000 maunds rice may be sent to the railway stations between Arrah and Mogulserai.

13. It is desired that the remainder, or 63,000 maunds, should consist of mixed grains, wheat, millet, &c., and I will request the Commissioner to cause this to be purchased through the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

14. It is to be borne in mind that the quantity above set forth for the canal includes some provision for laborers from other districts besides Shahabad. Mr. Levinge gives me the following approximate statement of laborers employed on the 380 miles of canal, 300 miles being in Shahabad and 80 in Patna and Gya:—

In what district.	No. of persons.
Gya and Patna	8,000
Shahabad	24,000
TOTAL ...	32,000

Of the 24,000 persons employed in the Shahabad District, about 14,000 are local and 10,000 have come from other districts.

15. A good scheme of roads for the employment of relief labor has been proposed. The total length of the roads ordered amounts to 415 miles, besides which 72 miles more have been proposed. There will be also some tanks to be excavated.

16. The number of persons employed on relief works at present may be stated at

17. The rates of wages on relief works are:—

	As.	P.	
Man	2	0	a day.
Woman	1	8	„
Child	0	9	„

For these rates a fair amount of work is exacted. If the persons are unable to do more than a very light or nominal amount of work, they receive a less rate.

18. The Commissioner and Collector consider that the distress will be scattered over the district; that no particular tract or tracts will be distressed; throughout those villages which have lost some of their crops will generally be found either to have some other crops as a resource, or to be close to neighbours who possess stores or who have good crops; and that consequently there are no tracts which could properly be marked off as relief circles like those which have been established in other districts. And I concur in this view.

19. But we all consider that there should be a well-paid and trustworthy native official and a deputy employed in each of the four main sub-divisions of the district to go the round of all the villages; to see that relief works are opened within easy reach of all who need employment; to search out individual cases of peculiar distress; to take any measures that may be emergently necessary, and to report constantly to the district. For this very important purpose, I have authorized the Collector to entertain at once four native officials, on salaries from Rs. 80 to 100 per mensem, and four deputies, on salaries of Rs. 40 to 50.

20. The Collector desires to have the services of two overseers in addition to his present small establishment. I have to ask that these officers may be supplied.

21. I find that additional subordinate medical establishments are not required in this district.

22. I would urge on the attention of Government the expediency of establishing telegraphic communication with Dehree, the head point of the Soane Canal works.

23. The following are the prices in the district. They do not indicate any severe scarcity as yet:—

Up to 21st March 1874.

	S.	C.
Common rice	11	6
Wheat	14	1
Barley	18	10
Jowar	19	0
Cheena	.....	
Indian-corn	16	11
Gram	18	7

No. 62.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the block of private grain at Patna Station, dated Bankipore, March 26, 1874.

I have carefully discussed the question relating to the block of private grain at Patna with the Commissioner, Mr. Bayley, the Collector, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. Meares, the Assistant Traffic Manager.

2. The block has been relieved for the time by the special exertions of Mr. Mangles and Mr. Meares.

3. An additional European establishment (to be entertained by the Railway Company) seems to me to be required at the station in addition to existing establishment.

4. The block occurred chiefly at the Patna City Station, and hardly at all at the Patna Ghât Station.

5. I am convinced that there is a chance, even a probability, of a block recurring. This arises from the fact that there is no sufficient space to place

the grain after its being unloaded from the wagons, nor is there any room for affording much space; consequently the railway wagons remain unloaded, and then block begins.

6. Thus the real cause of the block is the impossibility of finding adequate accommodation at the Patna City Station.

7. It might have been practicable to transfer the grain to the Patna Ghât Station where there is ample room; but there is at present no proper road from this station to the city itself.

8. I consider that the present state of things is unsatisfactory, and that there is no security whatever against blocks periodically occurring, unless some efficient station other than the Patna City Station is provided.

9. For this there are two plans:—

1*st*.—To open out a good road to Patna Ghât Station.

2*nd*.—To open a temporary station near Bankipore for Patna City.

10. Either or both of these are feasible; I am unable to determine which is preferable without special inquiry. I incline to the opinion that the second alternative is the better.

11. I propose that the Commissioner should have an inquiry immediately made conjointly by the Consulting Engineer in the Railway Department, by Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. Mangles.

12. I should hope that this inquiry may be made within a week.

No. 63.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., summarizing statistically the main points regarding the Patna Division, dated Bhaugulpore, March 27, 1874.

From the latter part of January to the beginning of March, I was chiefly engaged in visiting the worst portions of the three districts in the Patna Division where severe distress is anticipated, *viz.*, Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun. I have since passed through the districts of Shahabad and Gya, and consulted the local authorities regarding the prospect of, and preparations for, the scarcity. I have also visited the Patna District, where no general scarcity at all is anticipated. That district is excluded from consideration in this Minute, which thus includes the whole of the Patna Division or Commissionership, except the district of Patna. The remarks and recommendations which I made will be found in the Minutes written during my visit, especially Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13 to 15, 17 to 19, 22 to 24, 29 to 36, 40, 57, 60, 61 and 67.

2. I now desire briefly to summarise, under one view, the main points, with the remark that any apparent discrepancies between the figures given in this Minute and in my former Minutes above cited are to be accounted for by the accession of more recent information having modified the statistics first presented.

3. The area and population of the five districts are as follow:—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Tirhoot	6,343	4,384,700
Chumparun	3,531	1,440,800
Sarun	2,654	2,063,900
Shahabad	4,385	1,724,000
Gya	4,718	1,949,700
TOTAL ...	21,631	11,563,100

4. The numbers of persons whom I have estimated, after conferring with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the period

of worst distress, together with the proportion those numbers bear to the total population concerned, may be thus set forth :—

District.	Number at worst period.	Percentage of population.
Tirhoot	1,000,000	23 per cent. on whole population.
Chumparun	316,000	50 „ on 285,600. 20 „ on 404,100. 15 „ on 466,200. 10 „ on 284,900.
Sarun	280,000	13 „ on whole population.
Shahabad	105,000	6 „ on „
Gya	93,000	5 „ on „
TOTAL ...	1,794,000	

5. These numbers have been obtained after separate enquiry by the local officers under my own observation for each tract in detail in each district by taking, on the whole population, a percentage representing those who are expected at the worst period to need assistance in some shape or other from Government, the percentages varying according to the circumstances of each tract.

6. The figures below give the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be sent, and the quantities which have, up to the middle of March, arrived within the several districts. I understand that the whole of the quantities recommended have been ordered by the Government.

District.	Recommended and ordered.	Arrived in the district.
Tirhoot	4,200,000	1,230,000
Chumparun	1,150,000	604,000
Sarun	680,000	310,000
Shahabad	317,000	179,000
Gya	220,000	140,000
TOTAL ...	6,567,000	2,463,000

Of this total quantity full 88 per cent. consists of rice, and the remainder, or 12 per cent., consists of mixed grain—wheat, Indian-corn, &c., chiefly obtained from the North-Western Provinces.

7. In communication with the local officers on the spot, I ordered the establishment of relief circles under the rules sanctioned by the Government of India, where they seemed to be required, and recommended the early appointment of officers, one for each circle, to supervise the distribution of relief, the relief works, and the medical arrangements. The numbers of such circles are as follow :—

Tirhoot	32
Chumparun	6
Sarun	1
Shahabad	0
Gya	0
TOTAL	39

8. Before leaving the Patna Division to inspect the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions, I had fixed the places for these circles, arranged that there

should be one superior officer and one native officer to each circle (with one superior European officer over each set of circles), and obtained the services of many of the European officers and most of the native officers required for the establishment on the above scale. The native officers were chiefly men selected from the army.

9. Shortly afterwards Sir George Campbell proceeded to Durbhanga, and personally supervised the working of the circles, in several places enlarging the organization according as the distress developed itself. Among other things, he obtained the services of a number of trained native civil officials from the North-Western Provinces.

Subsequently, with Sir George Campbell's approval, I have obtained the services of a further number of native officials from the North-Western Provinces. And it has now been arranged that each circle shall have at least one European or one superior native officer and two subordinate native officers, some circles having more, according to circumstances. I have arranged, with Sir George Campbell's approval, that the temporary establishment shall be made up to this complement. It may now be said that all the officers, European and Native, have joined, or are on their way. Those who have not joined are being pushed on as rapidly as possible. These remarks apply to the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts.

10. For the districts of Shahabad, Gya, and Sarun, where the distress will not be of such a nature as to require the formation of circles, I have arranged that there shall be four superior native officials appointed as supervisors for each district, or twelve in all, to go the rounds of the villages and to see that all necessary measures are adopted.

11. The additional establishment for relief of the whole division may be approximately stated as follows:—

District.	European supervising officers.	Circle officers.	Native officers.	Total.
Tirhoot	5	32	64	101
Chumparun	2	6	12	20
Sarun	1	2	6	9
Shahabad	...	...	4	4
Gya .. .	.	1	4	5
TOTAL ...	8	41	90	139

These numbers are in addition to the ordinary civil establishment of the district, European and Native, all of whom are actively engaged in relief, which indeed forms an integral part of the civil administration.

12. With all the relief officers there are associated very many private gentlemen, European and Native, scattered all over the country as members of sub-divisional committees or sub-committees. I cannot now state the number of those non-official coadjutors, but it must be considerable and greatly exceeding the numbers of the relief officers. In Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun the indigo planters collectively and individually are rendering the most important aid. Many native zemindars are doing the same. It will be interesting hereafter to record the particulars of the non-official assistance thus rendered. I am sanguine that it will be found to be worthy of commemoration.

13. Before the period of my visit a permanent line of electric telegraph from Patna to Segowlee (north of Chumparun) *viâ* Mozufferpore and Motihari had been sanctioned, and had been completed as far as Mozufferpore. But to save time I proposed that the remainder of the line should be made as a temporary line, and that there should be an extension to Bettiah and Ramnuggur. I then, after consulting the local officers, recommended that temporary lines should be made to all the principal centres of the Tirhoot District

This was sanctioned by Government, and the temporary telegraph lines, now complete and in work, may be thus stated:—

Line.	Miles.
Mozufferpore to Motihari, Bettiah, and Ramnuggur	102
Mozufferpore to Seetamurree	32
Mozufferpore *via* Durbhanga to Madhobunee	48
Barrh to Durbhanga, with branch to Tajpore	60
Madhobunee to Naraya	30
TOTAL	272

14. The great public works which subserve most beneficially the purposes of relief are:—

	Miles.
The Soane Canal	380
The Gunduck Embankment	90
TOTAL ...	470

and now the high level canal in the district of Chumparun, which is ordered to be commenced. The number of persons employed on, and the quantity of grain required for, these works are included in the total figures which I give for the several districts.

15. Besides these great works, there are lesser relief works specially projected by the local officers. They consist chiefly of roads (earthwork) and tanks (excavation). The tanks under operation are numerous and scattered all over the country, and their number is increasing daily, and I cannot give it exactly. But the length of relief roads may be stated as follows:—

District.	Relief Roads—Miles.
Tirhoot	710
Chumparun	520
Sarun	575
Shahabad	487
Gya	185
TOTAL ...	2,477

Besides the work on all these lines of road, there are the special repairs being executed under European supervision on the lines of the transit of grain, as will be explained presently.

16. The number employed on relief works of all kinds may be stated as follows:—

District.	No. of persons.
Tirhoot	450,000
Chumparun, including Gunduck Works	100,000
Sarun	90,000
Shahabad	2,000
Gya	1,000
Soane Canal Works	33,000
TOTAL ...	676,000

If the number should seem small for Shahabad and Gya, then we must remember that the relief laborers of those two districts are chiefly on the Soane Canal Works.

17. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is small. According to the latest information, it did not exceed 4,200 in Tirhoot, and 1,200 in Chumparun.

18. For the supervision of the relief roads and tanks, I have at various times applied for the services of overseers, which applications have been approved by Government, and the men have either joined or are on their way.

Also several additional engineer officers have been appointed. The number may be stated as follows :—

District.	Superintending Engineer.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Overseers
Tirhoot	1	6	25
Chumparun	...	2	6
Sarun	...	2	3
Shahabad	...	...	2
Gya	...	...	4
TOTAL ...	1	10	40

These are in addition to the establishment on the Soane Canal Works and on the Gunduck Embankment, also to the ordinary Public Works establishment of the district, all of which assist in respect of relief works so far as they can.

19. For the work of the relief, I have applied for and obtained the services of native doctors and hospital assistants as below :—

District.	Native doctors and hospital assistants.
Tirhoot	60
Chumparun	14
Sarun	...
Shahabad	...
Gya	...
TOTAL ...	74

I found the districts of Sarun, Shahabad, and Gya so far supplied with this class of men that more need not be applied for, especially considering the more urgent requirements of other districts and the difficulty of procuring the men.

20. The grain supplied by Government is sent to depôts at places selected with reference to the area of distress. The number may be thus stated for the several districts :—

District.	Number of depôts.
Tirhoot	74
Chumparun	24
Sarun	32
Shahabad	30
Gya	17
TOTAL ...	177

All these depôts contain stores of grain. From these depôts the grain will be distributed according to circumstances.

21. The grain is despatched from Calcutta by separate arrangements, and reaches the stations on the East Indian Railway from Mokameh to Mogulserai. It then comes under the charge of the relief department of the Patna Commissionership. That portion (which is by far the greatest) destined for the Tirhoot and Chumparun Districts is conveyed to the south or right bank of the Ganges by four small branches near Mokameh, Barrh, Futwa, and Patna; of which four branches, three have been made especially for this occasion. It is then placed on board steamers or barges towed by steamers, and conveyed to three points on the north or left bank—namely, Bunkur opposite Patna, Chumpta opposite Barrh, and a point opposite Mokameh. At these points it comes under the charge of the inland transport service, and

is carried to the depôts by certain main routes which may be described as follows:—

Point of departure.	Route.	Distance in miles.
Bunkur ...	To Motihari, Gobindgunj, Bettiah, and Ramnuggur	155
	To Poosa, Durbhánga, and Madhobunee ...	77
	To Seetamurhee and Sursoond	80
Chumpta ...	To Durbhanga and Naraya, north-eastern corner of Tirhoot District	95
Opposite Mokameh ...	To Durbhanga	50
	TOTAL ...	457

From these main lines there are branch routes, too numerous to mention here, to the various grain depôts.

22. The grain for Sarun is carried by carts from the station of Arrah, and crossing the Ganges, is carried to Hutwa and Sadowa; distance from 80 to 90 miles.

23. The grain for Shahabad is sent from the railway stations between Arrah and Mogulserai and carted into the interior; average distance 50 miles.

24. The grain for Gya is sent from the railway stations at or near Patna, and is carted into the interior to a distance of 60 miles.

25. The means of transport at present employed may be approximately set forth in numbers as below:—

DISTRICT.	Steamers.	Country boats.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught bullocks.	Camels.	Pack bullocks
Tirhoot	5	900*	58,000	60,000	116,000	2,000	3,000
Chumparun	.....	200	8,000	8,500	17,000	.....	.....
Sarun	.....	100*	3,500	3,600	7,000	.....	.....
Shahabad	.....	.....	1,000	1,050	2,000	.....	.....
Gya	.....	.....	500	525	1,000	.....	.....
TOTAL ...	5	1,200	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000

* The number of boats was much larger than is here set down, while the navigation of the Gunduck continued feasible. Double the number of boats now employed may be expected on the river as soon as the rains set in.

26. These various means of transport have been hired by Government. The carts and bullocks are for the most part brought into the field by five associations of European contractors. These contractors are indigo planters, gentlemen living on their own estates in the neighbourhood of the routes of transit. These contracts have been made by the local officers under my own supervision. The arrangements are at present working well, save in one case where the contractors have not yet succeeded in carrying the full quantity engaged for. The remaining carts are furnished by small contractors (natives). It is remarkable that all the carts and bullocks are obtained within the limits of the Patna Division. The camels and pack bullocks are furnished by a large native contractor from the North-Western Provinces.

27. Upon each of the main transit routes above-mentioned there are several European officers to see to emergent repairs, to clear away obstacles, to construct temporary crossings, and the like; and with them there are also one regiment of Pioneers (natives) and five companies of Sappers, the whole being under the command of Colonel MacGregor, of the Quarter-Master General's Department. At the two main points of departure, Bunkur and Chumpta, there is a special organization on a large scale under selected European officers.

28. Besides these means, I have, with the approval of Government, caused to be engaged a body of reserve transport of a strength equal to 4,250 carts drawn by 10,000 bullocks, capable of carrying (at the rate of 16 maunds a cart) 68,000 maunds per daily march of twelve miles; also 6,000 pack bullocks or pack ponies. These carts and animals have for the most part been

purchased for Government in the North-Western Provinces and in the Shahabad District. The carts are divided into detachments of 250 carts each, with a complete military organization under European and Native officers. This arrangement is being carried out under Mr. Rivett-Carnac. This reserve is intended to remedy any mishap or failure which may occur with the contract hired carriage; and its organization is designed to render it as effective as possible for this end.

29. With a view to obtaining an additional resource on the route from Chumpta to Durbhanga, which is by far the most important of all the routes, I strongly recommended at the end of January last the construction of a tramway, distance 50 miles. The Government after consideration sanctioned the project, with important additions, whereby the line becomes a railway. The work is progressing under the good auspices of Mr. Molesworth and Major Staunton.

30. The advances of money (repayable) obtained from Government by landowners for the assistance of their tenantry and by traders for the importation of grain may be set forth as below :—

District.	By zemindars for the ryots.	By native traders for importation.	Total.
Tirhoot	95,506	522,650	618,156
Chumparun	60,000	132,000	192,000
Sarun	286,890	129,700	416,590
Shahabad	...	3,300	3,300
Gya	8,800	10,000	18,800
TOTAL ...	451,196	797,650	1,248,846

31. I ordered Government grain to be offered for sale under Clause 9, Rule 3, Part II, of Rules for Relief Committees, at the rate of 10 seers to the rupee, in the several circles which form the eastern half of the Madhobunee and Durbhanga Sub-divisions. This order has been carried out. I afterwards directed that a rate of 12 seers to the rupee should be allowed. This order has not, however, been carried out as yet.

32. I cannot finish this summary without taking the opportunity of giving my testimony to the judgment, discrimination, and assiduity displayed by the Commissioner, Mr. Steuart Bayley, in the discharge of the extraordinarily difficult duties which have devolved on him ever since the first threatening of scarcity in Behar. The ability with which he has sustained the pressure of so many urgent affairs, simultaneously presenting themselves for decision, entitle him to the commendation and the confidence of Government. I trust that he may in due course witness the successful result of his labors.

33. I also desire to commend to the notice of Government the exertions of Mr. J. Hewitt, the Deputy of the Commissioner of Patna. He has had a prominent share in the transit arrangements on both banks of the Ganges, and his general assistance to the Commissioner in all affairs relating to the scarcity has proved very valuable.

No. 64.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Monghyr District of the Bhaugulpore Division, dated Bhaugulpore, March 28, 1874.

Having visited the Monghyr District and discussed its affairs relating to scarcity with the Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, and the Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, I have to record the following observations.

2. The district is divided by the Ganges into two parts, northern and southern. On both banks of the river, especially the northern, there are spring crops which have turned out excellently well, and thus a large portion of the district is placed beyond the reach of apprehension.

3. But in the northern part of the district there is a tract named Buktiarpore included in the thannah of Gogree, which is separated from the basin of the Ganges by a belt of swamp, and in which the main staple (rice) has

failed, having produced a one-anna to two-annas yield. In the southern part is also a broad tract comprising the thannahs of Sheikpoora and Secundra, dependent mainly on the rice crop, which for the most part failed, having a yield of only three annas. There is also a hilly tract (around a branch of the Vindhyas jutting out against the Ganges) within which the rice crop has failed, especially near Khurruckpore, belonging to the Durbhanga Raj. Throughout the district there are autumn crops, Indian-corn, and the like, which last proved indifferent, with a yield of only six annas.

4. The general situation may be summarized thus. Several tracts of the district have lost the greater part of its food-supply for nearly a year. But in juxtaposition with these there are tracts with excellent crops. There are as good facilities for trade and communication as could reasonably be expected in any district. At present the poorer classes in the distressed districts are engaged in cutting the harvest in the flourishing tracts, and when this employment ceases (in a few days more), they will probably come in great numbers suddenly on the hands of Government for relief. Thus the period of distress will be probably at its worst from the 15th April till the 15th June, when, if the rains fall favorably, there will be again employment obtainable. But the distress, though mitigated, will last till the produce of the autumn crop comes in by the beginning of September, after which time the distress will cease.

5. I requested the Collector to estimate the numbers of persons whom he expects will need assistance from Government, and he would take 40 per cent. on the population of the Buktiarpore portion of the Gogree thannah, on the population of the Sheikpoora and Secundra thannahs, and on the population round Khurruckpore, which calculation gives this result:—

In what thannah.	Persons who will need assistance from Government.
Gogree	42,000
Secundra	44,000
Sheikpoora	79,000
Khurruckpore	7,000
TOTAL ..	172,000

I would accept this part of the estimate.

6. It is further agreed that we must provide for the whole number for two months (from 15th April to 15th June).

7. The Collector thinks that from 15th June to 1st October we should provide for a quarter of the number. The Commissioner thinks that it would not be safe to take less than a half.

8. The result of the two calculations may be seen thus:—

Estimate by Commissioner.

	Mds.
172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day	1,93,500
86,000 for 3½ " " ¾ " " "	1,69,312
TOTAL ...	3,62,812

Estimate by Collector.

172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day	1,93,500
43,000 for 3½ " " ¾ " " "	84,656
TOTAL ...	2,78,156

9. I concur in the Commissioner's estimate, and consider that 3,60,000 maunds, plus 5 per cent. for wastage (18,000 maunds), making 3,78,000 maunds in all, should be provided for the Monghyr District.

10. Already 3,00,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government; of which, 1,92,000 maunds have been stored. Besides this there are 20,000 maunds stored by the Court of Wards (Durbhanga) at Khurruckpore, which, added to the 1,92,000, makes up 2,12,000 maunds, leaving 1,66,000 maunds yet to be sent. But as the grain sent as yet consists of rice, the remainder can conveniently be supplied, if the Government sees fit, by mixed grain obtained in the North-Western Provinces.

11. After communicating with me on the occasion of my visit to Soopole, the Commissioner has fixed the following relief circles, which appear to be quite appropriate :—

1.	Buktiarpore	North of Ganges.
2.	Luckeeserai	South of Ganges.
3.	Secundra	South of Ganges.
4.	Sheikpoora	South of Ganges.

The three last-named circles form a group, and have been constituted a relief sub-division under Mr. Currie, C. S.

12. The local Government has already appointed European officers to each of these circles. I had previously authorized the Commissioner to appoint one native officer to each circle. I have now requested him to appoint a second native officer to each circle, which he will be able to do immediately. There is at least one overseer for public works in each circle; a native doctor has also been appointed to each.

13. I have the pleasure to state that the Commissioner and the Collector speak in high terms of the conduct of the zemindars in the distressed tracts, who are keeping their tenantry from their own resources, taking advances from Government for this purpose, and constructing tanks and such like works in the villages. The number of such tanks is reported to be at least 34. The Durbhanga Court of Wards also, through Mr. Roberts, the local manager, is setting the best example to neighbouring zemindars by storing grain, constructing works, and assisting ryots.

14. The amount of cash advances obtained from Government is shown in the subjoined table; the amount is creditable to the district authorities :—

Monghyr District.

	Rs.
Advances for purchases of grain, under paragraph 4 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1873	56,800
For land improvement, under paragraph 21 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1873	33,790
Generally for helping ryots, under Government orders No. 4004 of 18th December 1873	11,300
TOTAL ...	101,890

15. The length of relief roads amounts to 254 miles.

16. The number of relief laborers, including those employed by zemindars on their tanks and those employed by the Court of Wards, may be stated for the present time at 12,000.

17. This is less than the numbers for some of the previous periods. But, as already explained, the people have gone off to the harvesting. It is to be feared that they will soon return to the relief works in much larger numbers than ever.

18. In this district, however, relief circles are in working order, and adequate quantities of grain are stored at all the points of probable requirement. And I have seen no district better prepared than Monghyr to meet an emergency of this kind. The Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, merit the confidence of Government.

No. 65.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., summarizing statistically the main points regarding the Bhaugulpore Division, dated Bhaugulpore, March 28, 1874.

I have on three separate occasions during my two recent tours visited portions of the Bhaugulpore Division or Commissionership. The observations and proposals which I have felt called upon to make will be found in my various Minutes written from the places visited, *viz.*, Nos. 25 to 28, 39, 41 to 44, 54A and 64.

I now desire to bring together the main points in a synoptical shape, embodying in this Minute the latest information received by me as to the result of the orders I gave, and the recommendations I made, in the Minutes above cited.

2. There are four districts belonging to this division, in all of which distress more or less is anticipated, namely, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Monghyr, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. I have marched through the worst parts of Bhaugulpore and Purneah, and I have passed by one of the worst parts of Monghyr.

3. The area and population may be thus stated :—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Bhaugulpore	4,327	1,826,300
Purneah	4,957	1,714,800
Monghyr	3,913	1,812,900
Sonthal Pergunnahs	5,488	1,259,300
TOTAL ..	18,685	6,613,300

4. The numbers of persons whom I have, in consultation with the local authorities, estimated as likely to require assistance from Government during the period of severest scarcity, together with the proportion between those numbers and the total population concerned, are as follow :—

District.	Number of people likely to need assistance.	Percentage on population concerned.
Bhaugulpore	274,650	50 per cent. on 342,936 30 „ „ 344,587
Purneah	240,000	30 „ „ 364,266 15 „ „ 527,051 and 50,000 souls for rest of the district.
Monghyr	172,000	40 per cent. on 430,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs	60,000	25 „ „ 240,000
TOTAL ...	746,650	

5. The quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided, and the quantities which have arrived, in the several districts are as follow :—

District.	Amount recommended. Mds.	Arrived in district. Mds.
Bhaugulpore	7,30,000	1,74,550
Purneah	6,50,000	3,45,000
Monghyr	3,78,000	2,12,000*
Sonthal Pergunnahs.	1,35,000	10,000
TOTAL ...	18,93,000	7,41,550

The grain consists almost entirely of rice.

6. I have, in communication with the local authorities, fixed the relief circles for the distressed tracts in Bhaugulpore, Purneah, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The Commissioner fixed the circles in the Monghyr District after consulting carefully with me. The numbers are as below :—

District.	Number of relief circles.
Bhaugulpore	7
Purneah	8
Monghyr	4
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2
TOTAL	21

Including 20,000 maunds stored by the Durbhanga Raj (under Court of Wards) at Khurruckpore.

7. For the management of these circles, the following establishments have been made up :—

Districts.	European Supervising Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.	Total.
Bhaugulpore	3	7	14	24
Purneah	2	8	16	26
Monghyr	2	4	8	14
Sonthal Pergunnahs	1	2	4	7
Total ...	8	21	42	71

These establishments are in addition to the regular civil establishments of the district, who all assist in relief, which is an integral part of the district work.

8. The relief works consist chiefly of roads (earthwork) and of tanks (excavation). The tanks are scattered all over the country, and I cannot give their number; but the length of the roads projected may be set down thus :—

District.	Length of relief roads in miles.
Bhaugulpore	215
Purneah	505
Monghyr	*254
Sonthal Pergunnahs	230
Total ...	1,204

9. The numbers of relief laborers are given below :—

District.	Number of relief laborers.
Bhaugulpore	21,000
Purneah	12,000
Monghyr	12,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2,100
Total ...	47,100

10. I have, in communication with the Commissioner, proposed that the rate of payment for unskilled labor should be 1½ anna for a man per diem, with proportionately less amount for women and children, and that 2 annas per diem should be given, under a system of task-work, to the more skilled or stronger laborers.

11. There is the following extra establishment employed for relief works :—

District	Superintending Engineers.	Executive Engineers.	Assistant Engineers.	Overseers.
Bhaugulpore ...	1	0	2	7
Purneah	0	1	3	8
Monghyr	0	0	1	4
Sonthal Pergunahs	0	0	1	0
Total	1	1	7	19

These are in addition to the ordinary establishment of Public Works in the district, all of whom aid in the operations of relief so far as they can.

12. The number of grain depôts may be stated thus:—

District.	Number of grain depôts.
Bhaugulpore	30
Purneah	30
Monghyr	13
Sonthal Pergunnahs	11
TOTAL ...	86

13. The grain is conveyed to the depôts by the following means: It is carried by the East Indian Railway to the stations of Sahibgunj, Colgong, Sooltangunj, and Monghyr, all on the south or right bank of the Ganges. From Sahibgunj it is carried across the Ganges by steamer, and from the other stations by boats or barges, to points on the north or left bank of the Ganges, whence it is carried to its various destinations by carts.

14. The transport service consists of the following number of carts and country boats or barges:—

DISTRICTS.	Carts.	Draught bullocks.	Cartmen.	Country boats or barges.	Steamers.
Bhaugulpore	8,000	17,000	8,000	151	
Purneah . .	8,000	17,000	8,000	200	1
Monghyr	2,000	4,000	2,000	39	.....
Sonthal Pergunnahs .	200	400	200	....	.....
TOTAL .	18,200	38,400	18,200	390	1

15. Zemindars and traders have been repeatedly invited to take advances from Government: the former to enable them to assist their ryots; the latter to enable them to import grain for sale. The result is that up to 28th March the following sums have been taken approximately:—

District.	By zemindars for ryots.	By traders for importation.	Total.
Bhaugulpore	37,400	68,000	1,05,400
Purneah	32,150	60,700	92,850
Monghyr	11,300	56,800	68,100
Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL ...	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,350

Government advances to ryots in Kissengunge (Purneah) for the purchase of seed-grain, or for subsistence, have also been authorized.

16. Returns made up to 28th March show that the following numbers of persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government:—

In Bhaugulpore	1,300
„ Purneah	5,335
„ Monghyr	1,603
„ Sonthal Pergunnahs	..
TOTAL ...	8,238

17. I have, on the recommendation of the local authorities, ordered the sale of Government grain at the rate of 12 seers to the rupee at the depôts in the thannahs of Bulrampore, Kudbah, and Kusbah Amour in the Purneah District, in the parts of the Soopole and Mudeypoora Sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore District, and at certain points in the Monghyr District.

18. In concluding this Minute, I desire to cordially acknowledge the assistance I have received in my inquiries and proceedings from Mr. G. N. Barlow, the Commissioner, and to express my confidence in his ability

to deal effectively and promptly with any difficulty that may arise in connection with the scarcity.

19. I also desire to bring to the notice of Government the very valuable services of Mr. H. Hankey, C.S., the Special Superintendent of Transport, both as regards the collection of country carriage under direct agency and the management of large contracts for the transport of Government grain.

No. 66.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., epitomising statistically the main points regarding the Patna, Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions, dated Bhaugulpore, March 28, 1874.

My Minutes Nos. 52, 63, and 65, dated 18th, 27th, and 28th March, present an abstract of what has been recommended, ordered, and done, during my tours through the Divisions, or Commissionerships, of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye; separate figures in those Minutes are given for each district wherein severe distress is anticipated, and a total for each division. I now desire to draw up a brief *resumé*, giving separate figures for each of the divisions abovenamed, and a grand total for so much of Bengal and Behar as I have visited.

2. The total area and population of the three divisions is as follows:—

Division or Commissionership.	Total area in sq. miles.	Total population.
Patna	23,732	13,122,743
Bhaugulpore	18,685	6,613,358
Rajshahye	17,694	8,893,738
TOTAL ...	60,111	28,629,839

3. But it is only within certain tracts in each division that distress is anticipated. I give below the area and population of the districts or tracts in each division wherein severe distress is looked for, together with the proportion borne by the distressed parts to the whole of each division as respects area and population:—

Division or Commissionership.	Likely to be distressed.		Percentage of distressed tracts on total.	
	Area of tracts.	Population of tracts.	Area.	Population.
Patna	16,666	8,124,164	70·22 per cent.	61·90 per cent.
Bhaugulpore	7,623	2,957,607	40·8 „	44·72 „
Rajshahye	8,098	3,491,936	45 76 „	39·26 „
TOTAL ...	32,387	14,573,707		

4. The number of persons which I have taken as being likely to need assistance from Government during the worst period of the scarcity, together with the percentage of those numbers and the total population and on the population of the distressed tracts, are given below:—

Division or Commissionership.	Number of people estimated to require aid at worst periods.	Percentage on distressed population.	Percentage on total population
Patna	1,794,000	22·08 per cent.	13·67 per cent.
Bhaugulpore ...	746,650	25 24 „	11·29 „
Rajshahye	802,863*	20·87 „	8 2 „
TOTAL ...	3,432,713		

* Including 44,000 persons in the Rajshahye District and, say, 30,000 on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

5. The following figures give particulars of the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided by Government, and the quantities which have already arrived in the districts :—

Division or Commissionership.	Provision recommended.	Arrived in the districts.
Patna	65,67,000	24,63,000
Bhaugulpore	18,93,000	7,41,550
Rajshahye	20,90,000*	3,70,000
TOTAL ...	1,05,50,000	35,74,550

6. The number of relief circles established, together with the numbers of officers allotted thereto, is given below :—

DIVISION OR COMMISSIONERSHIP.	Number of Circles.	RELIEF OFFICERS.			Superintending Engineers.	Executive and Assistant Engineers	Public Works Overseers.	Native Doctors and Hospital Assistants.
		European Superior Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.				
Patna	39	8	41	90	1	10	40	74
Bhaugulpore ...	21	8	21	42	1	8	19	18
Rajshahye ...	31	19	31	15	1	.....	28	31
TOTAL ...	91	35	93	147	3†	18	87	123

The special relief establishment is over and above the ordinary civil establishments of the districts, all of which aid in the distribution of relief, which is an integral part of the administration of the various districts. Besides these, too, is the establishment on the Soane Canal, the Gunduck Embankments, and the Northern Bengal State Railway.

7. The banks and other miscellaneous relief works cannot be stated numerically; but the length of the relief roads of the Soane Canal, of the Gunduck Embankment, and of the Northern Bengal State Railway within the distressed tracts is given below in miles :—

Division or Commissionership.	Relief roads.	Soane Canal.	Gunduck Embankments.	Northern Bengal (State) Railway.	Temporary Telegraph.
Patna	2,477	380	90	...	272
Bhaugulpore... ...	1,204	...	...	...	20
Rajshahye	1,490	...	...	178	44
TOTAL ...	5,171	380	90	178	336

8. The number of relief laborers as given in my several Minutes may be thus abstracted :—

Division or Commissionership.	Persons employed on relief works.
Patna	676,000
Bhaugulpore	47,100
Rajshahye	63,700‡
TOTAL ...	786,800

9. The number of grain depôts opened, at all of which there are now stores of grain, is given below :—

Division or Commissionership.	Grain Depôts.
Patna	177
Bhaugulpore	86
Rajshahye	61
TOTAL ...	324

* Including the provision of 2,00,000 maunds for the Rajshahye District and the Northern Bengal State Railway.
† One Chief Engineer has since been appointed.
‡ Including 7,000 laborers on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

10. The means at present employed in the transport of Government grain are tabulated below, the figures being, however, only approximate :—

Division or Commissionership.	European Officers.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught bullocks.	Camels.	Pack animals.	Country boats.	Steamers.	Number of main routes of transport by land and water.
Patna	21	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000	1,200	5	5
Bhaugulpore	7	18,200	18,200	38,400	.....	...	390	1	4
Rajshahye	5	9,200	9,200	18,400	.....	...	720	3	11
	33	98,400	101,075	199,800	2,000	3,000	2,310	9	20
Government reserve ...	12	4,250	4,250	10,000	.....	6,000	.....	...	...
Total ...	45	102,650	105,325	209,800	2,000	9,000	2,310	9	20

In order to strengthen the principal line of transit in Eastern Tirhoot, the railway is being constructed from Chumpta to Durbhanga—a distance of 50 miles.

11. Advances of money have been obtained from Government in the following sums :—

Division or Commissionership.	By zemindars for assistance of their tenantry.	By traders for importation of grain.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	4,51,196	7,97,650	12,48,846
Bhaugulpore	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,350
Rajshahye	90,000	46,000	1,36,000
Total ...	6,22,046	10,29,150	16,51,196

Advances have also been authorized to ryots, both for their subsistence during the time which must elapse before their autumn and winter harvests are reaped and for seed-grain to sow the autumn crops. But there are as yet no returns of the amounts of such advances made.

12. The approximate number of recipients of gratuitous relief from Government are :—

In Patna Division or Commissionership	5,400
„ Bhaugulpore Division „	8,200
„ Rajshahye „ „	6,400
Total ...	20,000

13. In the three divisions the rates of wages for relief labor range from 2 to 3 annas per diem where there is task-work, and 1 to 2 annas where there is not. The above rates are for men; proportionally lesser rates are allowed for women and children.

No. 68.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the inland carriage of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions in connection with the carrying powers of the East Indian Railway, dated Calcutta, April 4, 1874.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has shown me the proceedings of the Government of Bengal regarding the transport arrangements for the Patna

and Bhaugulpore Divisions, and invited me to state my opinion as to the means of inland carriage in those two divisions in relation to the transport of Government grain by the East Indian Railway Company.

2. From a consideration of the latest returns received, it appears that the inland carriage is carrying away from the several railway stations upwards of 2,000 tons a day, and this, too, after allowing for a short quantity below engagement being carried by the Alliance Company, and without counting the Government reserve carriage.

3. The Durbhanga State Railway has begun to carry grain, and will very shortly be carrying 800 tons a day. This quantity, added to the 2,000 tons, will make up a total of 2,800 tons daily.

4. I understand, however, that the Railway Company are not at present prepared to carry more than 2,500 tons daily. It is of course of vital importance that the amount carried should never, even for a single day, fall short of this amount. If this amount be maintained, the total quantity allotted will be sent forward from the several railway stations before the 1st June, and stored at the depôts in the interior by the 15th June, that is, the commencement of the rainy season, provided that no unforeseen accident occurs, and therefore the proposed arrangement may prove sufficient.

5. On the other hand, it has been seen above that the inland transit in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions is now carrying, or is prepared to continue carrying, away somewhat more than the amount above set down; and I learn from the proceedings of the Government of Bengal that in some places the demands of the local authorities for Government grain have been unavoidably reduced in order that the limit of 2,500 tons daily, set down to be carried by the railway, may be observed.

6. Looking to the latest reports, I should consider that 3,000 tons daily can be carried away by local resources from the several railway stations thus:—

	Tons.
Durbhanga Railway	800
Country carriage	2,200
TOTAL ...	3,000

It is to be observed, too, that the Durbhanga Railway is reported to be able to carry from 1,000 to 1,200 tons a day, and that the shortcoming on the part of the Alliance Company may yet be partly retrieved.

7. On the whole, it is not too much to say that if every effort be strained by the local authorities to carry away the grain as fast as possible, upwards of 3,000 tons a day could be sent forward from the railway stations.

8. The result might be that the various quantities which make up the total amount allotted would arrive at their various destinations in the interior of the districts some time before the latest safe day, namely, the 15th of June. This would not be a disadvantage, but on the contrary a great and a commanding advantage, for it would be a safeguard against the many unforeseen accidents which might occur towards the end of the hot season. This margin of time might allow the authorities to repair losses, damages, or misfortunes to which such a service and such operations as those now before us are very liable. It is therefore greatly to the interest of the districts concerned and conducive to the safety of the people that the authorities should have grain supplied to them (within the limits of the allotments) as fast as they can carry it away.

9. Great pressure has been put upon the local authorities to organize their transport as strongly as possible, and they have answered to that call in a manner which will, I trust, be found worthy of the approbation of Government; and it would be very convenient if their districts could be allowed to reap the full benefit of these arrangements.

10. If therefore it be possible for the East Indian Railway Company to carry more than 2,500 tons of Government grain a day, say 3,000 tons, or even 3,400 tons a day, that would be a considerable advantage to the general relief

operations in Behar. Whether the Company could do this with due regard to other considerations is a matter on which I need not attempt to give an opinion. But I should feel sure that, subject to the direction of the Government of India, the Company will endeavour to effect this object if it be found reasonably practicable.

11. It is to be remembered that the amount carried by local carriage, as above set down, refers to the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions, and is irrespective of the local carriage of the Rajshahye Division.

12. In offering these general remarks, however, I do not forget that, besides the question of the carrying powers of the East Indian Railway, there is the consideration of the transport by sea from Burmah to Calcutta. It may or may not be possible to land sufficient quantities of the rice at Howrah in time to afford consignments to the amounts required to keep the inland carriage up-country up to its full working power: that of course is a matter upon which I am not at this moment able to form any accurate opinion.

Letter from G. H. K. Hart, Esq., on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department,—No. 121, *dated March* 31, 1874.

I am directed by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple to report the completion of his second tour in the distressed districts.

2. The various Minutes, Nos. 39 to 62, 64 and 67, already submitted to the Government of Bengal, comprise all the remarks and recommendations which seemed from inquiry on the spot to be required. It is hoped that they will be found to treat on all the points adverted to in your letter No. 1236 S. R. of the 4th March with one exception.

3. This exception is the case of Chota Nagpore, which country Sir Richard Temple has been unable to visit by reason of the shortness of the time available.

4. I am to take this opportunity of submitting three Minutes—namely, No. 63, summarizing the statistics of the Patna Division in relation to scarcity and relief, (see p. 306) and No. 65 for the Bhaugulpore Division, (see p. 314) which may be taken together with the previous Minute No. 52 of 18th March for the Rajshahye Relief Division, (see p. 285) and No. 66, (see p. 318) giving an abstract of the several summaries for the whole country comprised in the divisions of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, so far as the operations are concerned, which have come under Sir Richard Temple's cognizance.

5. He desires to tender his acknowledgments to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for the support so promptly accorded to all the recommendations which have been made, and he trusts that the general result of the proceedings may prove satisfactory to the Government of Bengal.

No. 68 A.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the supply of seed-grain, dated April 4, 1874.

Of the many difficult questions arising out of the scarcity, none is more involved in uncertainty than that relating to the supply of seed-grain.

2. Many well-informed persons argue from the experience of former famines that, despite the scarcity of grain for food, when the sowing time arrives there will be seed forthcoming for the sowing; others again apprehend that in a vast number of instances the cultivator will have consumed a part more or less of his seed-grain for food, and that consequently, even if the next rainy season shall prove propitious, still the crop must be short from deficiency of seed.

3. The anticipations of those who fear that the seed has been or will be consumed for food have not been verified as yet by the sowings for the

early kind of rice which have been sown as yet. Some of those kinds indeed have been already sown abundantly. The doubt cannot, however, be fully tested until the sowing time for the principal, or winter, crop of rice shall arrive.

4. Those who entertain this apprehension urge Government to collect seed-grain to be supplied in due course to the cultivators, and the possibility of a short crop from such a cause next year after what has happened this year is sufficiently serious to compel me to take the matter into practical consideration. I have constantly thought on the subject since February last, and have consulted many persons, both official and non-official, but have seldom been able to perceive any source of action which would be effectual and satisfactory.

5. It is certain that many private persons—traders, landholders, and others—have quantities of seed-grain which they hold in order to sell to the cultivators. This is a most legitimate business, and we should avoid interference with it.

6. The cultivators always allege that as there are many varieties of rice, the seed of one particular variety only will suit particular lands; if seed of other varieties were offered, it would not be suitable, and so on. If this be in any degree true (which, however, I do not affirm), the difficulty of obtaining any seed from a distance becomes great; when the seed arrives, it would probably be rejected.

7. Then the only seed to be depended on as suitable would be that obtained on the spot. But from the nature of the case, the locality in question would always be one where scarcity prevailed. How then is Government to buy up seed-grain in such a place? The prices of food would immediately rise, and the scarcity would be aggravated.

8. Again, there is scarcity not only in the distressed districts, but also in most of rice-producing districts in Bengal. Therefore even in the last-named districts there is objection to purchasing locally on behalf of Government, as such purchases aggravate the prevailing dearness of rice.

9. It might be suggested that seed-grain could be obtained from beyond the seas just as the food-grain is obtained. But then such seed-grain is much less likely to prove suitable than the seed procured in India.

10. Thus the subject is seen to be fraught with difficulty. Notwithstanding this, however, it behoves us to consider possible remedies or precautions.

11. It is commonly said by the people (though I am far from affirming it) that the grain of the last crop only is fit for seed. Even where the crop has for the most part failed, and a small remnant alone is saved, the cultivators will still save some of that remnant for seed, and will subsist on the grain saved from previous seasons. It is only when he is driven to extremity by hunger that he will eat up his seed-grain. The first general remedy is that which has already been applied—namely, the supply of food by Government in places where the natural supply has failed. The people will certainly not use their seed-grain for food if they can feed themselves otherwise. Many thousands of cultivators are obtaining relief from Government in employment or other ways; such persons have no reason to use up their little hoard of seed-grain.

12. To many thousands of cultivators again advances of money or grain have been, and are being, made to enable them to subsist till the next harvest shall be gathered. These also will be exempt from the necessity of consuming their seed-grain. I have again issued stringent instructions to all relief officers to remove from the cultivators the temptation to consume their seed-grain by affording timely assistance.

13. In some localities, where the last crop was utterly and entirely lost, we have specially arranged, at the request of the cultivators, to obtain seed-grain from other localities where the same variety was known to exist. Similarly we trust to obtain some seed-grain from the Nepaul Districts bordering upon our own.

14. There is one other remedy which has been often pressed upon my attention—which is the exchanging of our foreign grain on the spot for seed-grain, to be afterwards disposed of by us to the cultivators. This, no doubt might be done to a large extent, but I have hesitated to authorize this, because those with whom we should make the exchange would be local traders, the

very persons who hold the seed-grain for the same purpose, namely, disposing of it to the cultivators. It is possible, however, that in some places the seed-grain thus held by traders might be turned into food-grain, and as a precaution I have given the relief officers discretion to exchange the Government grain up to one-tenth of their store in hand for seed in any locality where a deficiency of seed-grain is seriously apprehended. I should hope that it may not be necessary to adopt this precaution in more than a few places.

15. I have also, with the sanction of the Government of India, purchased 1,00,000 maunds of seed-grain in Lower Bengal for distribution wherever needed in North Behar. We cannot of course be sure that this seed will answer, although there is hope that it may. If not wanted for seed, it will be good as food; at all events it constitutes a precaution in a case where certainty is unattainable.

Circular letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, and to all District Officers in those Divisions, No. 2942—*S.R., dated Calcutta, May* 6, 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of a Minute (see above) recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the supply of seed-grain for the famine districts.

2. I am directed to draw the special attention of all district, sub-divisional, and circle officers to—

Paragraph 10 *of the Minute*—

Enjoining the liberal advance of food-grain to cultivators, so as to free them from the necessity of consuming their seed-grain.

Paragraph 12 *of the Minute*—

Authorizing all circle officers to exchange food-grain for seed-grain up to one-tenth of the whole of their stores, with a view of distributing afterwards to needy cultivators the seed-grain so collected.

3. The seed-grain which the Lieutenant-Governor is buying in Bengal will probably be distributed—75,000 maunds to the Madhobunee Sub-division and 25,000 to the Ramnuggur relief sub-division, as these are the tracts where last year's failure of the rice crops was most complete and where seed-grain is most deficient. The sub-divisional and circle officers will be answerable for advancing this seed-grain promptly to the most needy tracts and villages; and plans for such distribution, with lists of villages, should be made out beforehand in all the circles of Madhobunee, Naraya, and Ramnuggur.

4. The seed-grain will be specially pushed early into the more remote tracts by the transport officers, and the Magistrates will have to see that this is really done. The Commissioner will settle how the quantities of seed-grain to be supplied shall be distributed between the several circles.

5. Spare copies of this circular and enclosure will be sent to all sub-divisional officers in famine districts, and the Magistrate-Collector will be responsible that early copies are in the hands of every circle officer.

No. 69.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the extension of the Chumpta and Durbhanga State Railway, dated Calcutta, April 6, 1874.

Understanding that the State Railway to Durbhanga is being constructed with excellent promptitude, and will very shortly be completed, I desire to represent the desirability of maintaining for a short period longer the working staff on the spot. I beg that reference may be made to my telegram of the 31st January last, which was written with the full concurrence of all the best-informed local authorities, and which recommended not only that the line be made to Durbhanga, but also that branches be made to Madhobunee and to Peepra Ghât.

2. These branches are quite as important as any part of the line, and their importance has been enhanced by recent events which have occurred since the 31st January. When the Government were so good as to sanction the construction of the line, I understood that the terminus was at first fixed at

Durbhanga, because there was little hope of time admitting of the line being carried further than Durbhanga; but now, owing to the rapidity of construction, there is every hope of the extension being completed in time.

3. If the extension be undertaken, it is probable that the main line will be carried on for a few miles north of Durbhanga, and that then a bifurcation will be made, one branch going to Madhobunee station, the other to Peepra Ghât. Of the two I should regard the branch to Peepra Ghât the most important, as this place is situate on the Bolan river near Junjharpore, and is on the trunk road which runs to Naraya in Alapore, and thence on to Nathpore on the river Koosee, a through line in which the Government of Bengal has taken much interest.

4. Looking to the magnitude of the inland transport work in Eastern Tirhoot, and the many mischances which may befall it despite all our efforts, I hope that the extension, at least to Peepra Ghât or even further in the direction of Naraya in Alapore, may be again considered before the constructive staff (which has proved so very efficient) is removed from the line. Though I primarily urge the construction of the Peepra Ghât piece, I would still gladly see the piece to the Madhobunee station (probably less than 10 miles) executed also, if time and means should permit.

5. Still, looking to all the circumstances as they now stand, I would recommend that if the Government have the means of doing more than extending the railway to Peepra Ghât, those means should be applied to carrying it beyond Peepra Ghât in the direction of Naraya as above indicated, leaving the Madhobunee branch undone. The adoption of this course would have one special advantage, in that the Durbhanga Raj, under the administration of Colonel Burn and Mr. Stevens, have already arranged to bridge the road, at least as far as Narya, before the rainy season, and have for the most part completed the earthwork. I should hope therefore that the conversion of the road into a railway may be practicable within the time.

6. Lastly, adverting to the several classes of difficulties which beset the various line of inland transport throughout Behar, I consider that the most difficult of all is the line from Durbhanga to the north-eastern part of the Madhobunee Sub-division. It is here then that the strongest reason exists for sustaining local effort and resource by a railway.

No. 70.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated April 13, 1874.

Estimate of Famine Expenditure.

I have been requested by His Excellency the Governor General to consider the estimate of the famine expenditure as prepared by the Government of Bengal in the time of my predecessor—

1*stly*.—In reference to information received up to the date of writing.

2*ndly*.—With reference to the finance of the year 1874-75.

2. I have accordingly caused a careful revision to be made by the Junior Secretary Mr. Mackenzie, in communication with the Secretary Mr. Bernard. The report made by these officers is hereto appended.

3. The result is that they estimate a gross expenditure of £7,759,000, against which they set as recoveries £1,750,000, leaving a net expenditure of £6,009,000.

4. The expenditure is all to be incurred before the end of 1874-75. A portion of the recoveries, however (£500,000), is not expected till after the end of 1874-75. Within 1874-75 therefore the set-off amounts to (£1,750,000 less £500,000 or) £1,250,000. And the net disbursements to end of 1874-75 would be £7,759,000 less £1,250,000, or £6,509,000.

5. For facility of reference, I transcribe the abstract given at the end of Mr. Bernard's note :—

			£
I.—Special establishments ...	...	..	135,000
II.—Promotion of private grain trade	...	...	340,000
III.—Relief works expenditure ...	...	...	1,000,000
IV.—Cost of Government grain—			
Purchase	...	...	3,784,000
Transport	...	...	1,750,000
V.—Charitable relief	...	...	200,000
VI.—Grants-in-aid of private works...	...	...	50,000
VII.—Advances for purchase of grain and land improvements...			500,000
	Total	...	7,759,000
Recoveries in 1874-75—			
By grain sales	1,000,000		
By repayment of advances ...	250,000		
			1,250,000
			6,509,000
Recoveries of future years, say	...	...	500,000
	Net outlay	...	6,009,000

6. I have carefully gone over the details of each heading of the above abstract, and although I might in some particulars take a little more and in others a little less, yet the difference on the whole is inappreciable in all the headings, except No. III.

As regards the transport of Government grain, No. IV, I have had the calculation of £1,750,000 elaborated and checked by taking the amount carried in each district at the average distance in miles in that district according to the varying rates of charge per mile, and I accept the estimate of 1,750,000 there set down as including all inland carriage by land and water.

7. But I do not think that this sum will cover the cost of the reserve carriage and the reserve flotilla, for which I offer the estimate appended to this Minute. The cost of the land carriage reserve (net after deducting sale proceeds) comes to £95,000, that of the flotilla to £91,000; or a total of £186,000.

8. The headings, however, on which I have principally to comment is No. III, which relates to expenditure on relief works and the heading of "Recoveries," the two headings being very much connected with each other.

9. The expenditure on relief works depends on the number of laborers of all classes and both sexes who are expected to be in want of employment. For the exposition of this I would refer to my various Minutes for each district, and especially to my Minute No. 66 of the 31st March (see p.), which comprises a review of that part of the estimate.

10. About the 7th April the number of relief laborers in all Behar and Bengal may be set down at 1,100,000, showing an increase of full 300,000 within the fortnight ending on that date, and this, too, notwithstanding that the harvesting of the spring crops was affording much private employment. That employment must now be over, and the number at this moment of writing is probably considerably over 1,100,000. The worst season is expected to begin soon, and will last till the 15th June: a large and rapid accession to the relief labor rolls is to be looked for every day. I consider therefore that we ought to be prepared for 2,000,000 during the first fortnight in May, and 2,500,000 during the last fortnight of May and the first fortnight of June, and 2,000,000 during the last fortnight of June. In July there would be a diminution. Still I think that we should prepare for 500,000 in July, for 400,000 in August, for 300,000 in September, for 200,000 in October, and for 100,000 in November.

11. The expenditure on relief works up to the end of April, partly actual and partly estimated, amounts to £550,000, including establishments, wages, tools, and everything. The cost of the Durbhanga State Railway debitable to famine may be taken at £200,000. The total then to end of April amounts to £750,000.

12. The wages of relief laborers, according to the last preceding paragraph, from beginning of May will amount to £1,800,000, at Rs. 3 per mensem

all round for men, women, and children. To this should be added 10 per cent. for establishment, or £180,000, bringing the total up to £1,980,000.

13. But from the beginning of May, perhaps from an earlier date, I hope that the local arrangements will be so made that the laborers will chiefly live by purchasing grain supplied by Government. In other words, they will chiefly be paid in kind. The effect will be that the money paid for wages will monthly find its way back to the treasury as "recoveries." I would assume, however, that 15 per cent. will not come back, and thus the recoveries would be £1,800,000

less 15 per cent	270,000
or	£1,530,000

14. And this brings me to the heading of "Recoveries." Besides the item just explained, there will be several large items of recovery.

15. In the first place, there will be large sales of Government grain to the public at places which are beyond the reach of trade. The matter is one of opinion. After considering each district and also each sub-division of every large district, I incline to hope that about 12,00,000 maunds (45,000 tons) may thus be sold in all the districts concerned. If this were so, then the yield of these sales, at Rs. 2½ a maund for Burmah cargo rice, would come to £303,000.

15. I would next assume that the reserve (70,000 tons), provided over and above the amount asked for by the local authorities, will not be expended. If it were sold in India, then the proceeds might be calculated thus—18,90,000 maunds at Rs. 2 a maund=£378,000.

17. The amount, £200,000, set down for expenditure on charitable relief will chiefly be recovered, for the relief committees will be spending this money on the purchase of grain from the Government depôts. Some part, however, may be otherwise expended, which may be set down at one-fourth, or £50,000, leaving £150,000 as recoverable.

18. The recoveries above described will, we hope, occur within the year 1874-75, but there is one recovery which, in part at any rate, will not occur till after that year.

19. I trust that, after the commencement of the rains, due facility will be offered to the ryots and cultivators for obtaining advances of food-grain, the value of which will be for the most part repaid hereafter when the next harvest shall come in. I am sure that this is an excellent mode of affording relief. After considering the case of each district and sub-division separately, I arrive at the calculation that 400,000 ryots may thus take advances. In that case the amount of grain would come out as follows: 400,000 ryots, with five persons in each household, would require for three months, at the rate of ¾ seer per diem per head, 33¾ lakhs of maunds, or about 125,000 tons. The value, at Rs. 2½ a maund, would be about £840,000. This recovery might, if the harvest go well, take place—one-half during the financial year 1874-75, and the rest after the close of that year, less by perhaps 15 per cent. for irrecoverable items.

20. According to the above views, the following is the abstract of the way in which we expect to dispose of the Government grain :—

	Tons.
I.—Grain to be distributed to laborers (at ¾ seer daily for 6,000,000 of work-people for one month)	125,000
II.—Advances to ryots, 400,000 families, with five persons to a family, and ¾ of a seer per head per day, for three months	125,000
III.—Probably distributed gratuitously for relief	70,000
IV.—Probably may be sold to the public	45,000
V.—Calcutta reserve to be sold either for re-export or in famine districts	70,000
VI.—Five per cent. wastage on total district allotments of 381,000 tons	19,000
TOTAL ..	454,000

21. The abstract of the estimate, according to my view, then would be in this wise :—

	£
I.—Special establishment	135,000
II.—Promotion of private grain trade	340,000
III.—Relief works	2,580,000
Add Durbhanga State Railway	200,000
IV.—Government grain—	
Purchase	3,784,000
Transport	1,750,000
Add reserve carriage, land and water	186,000
V.—Charitable relief	200,000
VI.—Grants-in-aid of private work	50,000
VII.—Advances to zemindars, traders, &c.	500,000
TOTAL ...	9,675,000

22. The abstract of recoveries, according to my view, would be as follows in 1874-75 :—

	£
I.—Sales of Government grain to relief laborers	1,530,000
II.—Sales to the public	303,000
III.—Sales to relief committees	150,000
IV.—Sale of reserve grain in Calcutta or elsewhere	378,000
V.—Recoveries from ryots of value of advances of food-grain during the year 1874-75	400,000
VI.—Recoveries of advances from zemindars and traders ...	250,000
TOTAL ...	3,011,000

There would still remain certain recoveries in 1875-76 thus :—

	£
Balance of head V, recoveries from ryots, less by 15 per cent. probably irrecoverable	314,000
Balance of head VI, recoveries from zemindars and traders, less 10 per cent. for losses and irrecoverable ...	200,000
TOTAL ...	514,000
Add Recoveries of 1874-75	3,011,000
GRAND TOTAL RECOVERIES ...	3,525,000

23. Thus the net expenditure to end of 1874-75 would be—

	£
Gross	9,675,000
Less recoveries	3,011,000
NET ...	6,664,000

To the end of 1875-76, or when the account is finally closed, the net expenditure would be thus :—

	£
Gross	9,675,000
Less recoveries	3,525,000
NET ...	6,150,000

24. In framing this estimate I have endeavoured to comprise every part of this somewhat large and complicated subject. The net result does not materially differ from that previously exhibited, though there is some difference in the mode of treating the two sides of the estimate, debit and credit. But I hope that the Government of India will bear in mind that the case is surrounded with uncertainty, and involves extraordinary circumstances which cannot be accurately foreseen. I dare not hope that the calculations will altogether escape some disturbance or some falsification by the course of events. I cannot do more than strive to frame the estimate in such a manner as the circumstances admit of, and on such data as are from the nature of the case available.

APPENDIX I.

Estimated Cost of Reserve Carriage.

4,000 carts purchased outright, with bullocks ...	}	Constitute the reserve land carriage.
600 pack cattle	}	

The average cost of a cart and pair of bullocks may be taken at Rs. 150. We have received no report of the outlay on these carts, but Rs. 150 is, I think, an outside price.

4,000 carts, at Rs. 150 each, comes to ... Rs. 6,00,000.
6,000 pack cattle, at Rs. 30 a head, would come to ,, 1,80,000.

	Rs.	
The up-keep of this carriage will be, at Rs. 15 per cart a month, for six months, and at Rs. 3 a month per pack animal ... ... =	36,000	for carts.
	10,800	for pack cattle.
TOTAL ...	46,800	

Total cost—	£
Prime cost of reserved carriage	78,000
Up-keep thereof	46,800
	124,800
Deduct ⅔ of cost price recoverable ...	40,000
TOTAL ...	84,800

RESERVE FLOTILLA.

	£
4 steamers with barges in Calcutta, at £2,500 each ...	10,000
10 steamers from England with barges (some of which last are to be made out here), with freight	60,000
Up-keep and coal for three months, Rs. 500 a month each ...	21,000
TOTAL ...	91,000

Net cost of reserve carriage ...	Grand total of carts, &c. ...	84,800
	,, steamers, &c. ...	91,000
	TOTAL ...	1,75,800

Add Cost of officers and troops for reserve carriage—	Rs.
20 European officers, at Rs. 600 each	12,000
100 Native officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, at Rs. 40	4,000
400 sepoys, at Rs. 6 each	2,400
TOTAL ...	18,400
	6
For 6 months ...	1,10,400
	= £11,040
MAKING THE GRAND TOTAL ...	£186,840

APPENDIX II.

Note by Messrs. Bernard and Mackenzie, dated Calcutta, April 10, 1874.

The estimate made by this Government of the probable famine expenditure is contained in our letter No. 681, dated 13th February last, to which reference should be made. The general result of that estimate may be shown thus:—

	Rs.
I.—Cost of special establishments	50,000
II.—Promotion of private grain trade	15,00,000
III.—Relief works	1,00,00,000
IV.—Purchase and transport of Government grain, less recoveries	3,00,00,000
V.—Charitable relief	10,00,000
VI.—Grants-in-aid of private works	5,00,000
TOTAL ...	4,35,00,000
	= £4,350,000
Add VII.—Advances recoverable	Rs. 50,00,000
GRAND TOTAL NETT ...	Rs. 4,85,00,000
	= £4,850,000

or, say £5,000,000

2. It has now to be considered where and how far the above estimate now admits of correction or modification. The accounts, as far as they go, do not help us much, for the Accountant General returns the expenditure in Bengal on famine purposes at only Rs. 30,90,760 to the end of January, and at Rs. 29,20,637 for February. His estimate for March is Rs. 57,00,000. But his figures do not show—(1) Public Works outlay; (2) compensation to railways for reduced rates of carrying grain; (3) any outlay on purchase of grain beyond Bengal.

I.—Special Establishments.

3. These, as estimated, are set out in the schedule of our letter No. 3888, dated 11th December last, supplemented by paragraph 3 of our No. 681 already quoted.

The allowances for superior officers as there given have been much reduced, but the expenditure under every other item has been greatly increased.

On the whole, we would submit the following as the probable cost of these establishments monthly:—

	Rs.
I.—Salaries and allowances of superior officers	11,000
II.—Extra allowances to 30 out of 48 junior civilians employed, at an average of Rs. 250 for each	7,500
III.—Substantive salaries of 16 civilians from other provinces, at an average of Rs. 600 each	9,600
IV.—Salaries and allowances of 63 military officers, at an average of Rs. 750 each	47,250
V.—Twenty-four temporary deputy collectors, at Rs. 200, and twenty-four sub-deputies, at Rs. 150	8,400
VI.—Substantive salaries of 22 uncovenanted officers from other provinces, at an average of Rs. 350 each	7,700
VII.—Pay of 70 gentlemen specially entertained, at an average of Rs. 200 each	14,000
VIII.—Pay and allowances of five covenanted medical officers, at Rs. 600 each	3,000
IX.—Pay of 120 native doctors, at Rs. 40, and 120 compounders, at Rs. 10	6,000
X.—Extra allowances to troops and pay of extra police (say 2,000 men in all)	12,000
XI.—Subordinate agency for 100 relief circles, at Rs. 200 each ...	20,000
XII.—Clerks, golah establishments, &c. (Tirhoot at Rs. 4,000, 4 districts at Rs. 2,000, and 10 districts at Rs. 1,000) ...	22,000
TOTAL ...	168,450 monthly,

i.e., for eight months, Rs. 13,47,600, or for seven months, say 12,00,000.

4. Items III, IV, VI, VIII, IX above, so far as they involve substantive salaries, are merely charges by transfer in account. If these are not taken in, we may reduce the monthly famine charge by Rs. 50,000, and the total would be for eight months Rs. 9,47,600, or for seven months Rs. 8,29,150. We do not think that on the whole less than eight months should be taken as the time for which the establishments will be required, for though some will be less, others will be considerably more. Still we have taken the full charge, as we understand that hitherto the accounts have been audited on that system.

II.—Expenditure on promoting Private Grain Trade.

5. The estimate of "loss by remission of tolls" may stand as before at Rs. 2,80,000. But the amount to be paid to the railway as compensation for carrying private grain at reduced rates has been much under-estimated. Our average distance of 400 miles was too low, and the quantity of private grain going into Behar has much exceeded anticipation. We think we should take 500 miles as the average lead for private grain, as so much now comes from the Punjab, 800 miles from Patna; and we would assume 12,50,000 of maunds as the average monthly import instead of 7 or 8,00,000

Then 12,50,000 of maunds a month = 1,00,00,000 maunds in eight months, which, at five annas a maund for 500 miles, give £312,500—the figure we now adopt.

III.—Relief Works Expenditure.

6. This was taken at a crore of rupees Up to date the special grants-in-aid of district road funds have aggregated 42,50,000, besides 4,00,000 for tank-work. The expenditure on works cannot continue much after June at any very high rate, but at present enormous numbers are employed. A good deal will be done, however, by paying in grain, and on the whole we would let the 1,000,000 stand for cash outlay on relief works, tools, plant, establishments, and we think we might include under it the Durbhanga Railway, which will alone probably be £200,000. The financial office estimate is, we find, £750,000, but this does not include the railway.

IV.—Cost and Transport of Government Grain.

7. We have been allowed to see a Note on this subject by Mr. Chapman, based upon actual facts, and of course we accept that in preference to the estimate we had ourselves prepared. We must, however, correct Mr. Chapman's figures slightly, for the Orissa grain contract did not eventually break down as expected, and we have to add therefore the cost of 4,000 tons, at Rs. 2-12 a maund, *i e.*, Rs. 2,99,200, or say £30,000, to his total, which then becomes £3,784,430 for purchase of grain.

Mr. Chapman takes the transport charges at Rs. 38 to 39 a ton all round, inclusive of reserve carriage. Our first estimate made the rate Rs. 42½ without reserve carriage, and the total was £1,870,000 against Mr. Chapman's £1,750,000. We have again examined this estimate in detail, dividing the districts into those of long and short leads, and re-estimating the charges, and the result brings us to a total of £1,709,300 without carrying any of the grain in reserve in Calcutta, and without counting cost of reserve carriage. We think, on the whole, Mr. Chapman's estimate of £1,750,030 may stand.

8. We would reduce the estimated recoveries from sales from £1,500,000, as in the letter of the 13th February, to £1,000,000 for the year 1874-75. Much of the grain will be given in advances to ryots, and all of it may not be recovered in 1874-75; moreover, we are not very sanguine of selling any reserve left on our hands in December next at very high rates.

V.—Charitable Relief.

9. The subscriptions to the relief funds already aggregate Rs. 12,77,000. We must calculate on this reaching 20,00,000, and take the Government contribution at that figure.

VI.—Advances Recoverable.

10. These were put at:—

	Rs.
For purchase of grain	20,00,000
„ land improvement and loans to municipalities .	30,00,000
TOTAL ...	50,00,000

The actual expenditure to the middle of March, as gathered from the district narratives, has been about 26,00,000.

11. A new class of advances have lately been sanctioned, *viz.*, to landlords to enable them to help their ryots, and in some cases to ryots direct. Many of these will be in grain, and we think the cash estimate of £500,000 for advances of all kinds may stand.

12. As regards recoveries, all advances for the purchase of grain should be recovered in 1874-75, and the value of much of the grain advanced should be repaid, but the repayment

of other advances will be gradual. Perhaps we might say that there will be recoverable of the £500,000—

	£
In 1874-75	250,000
In subsequent years	200,000
Ultimate loss	50,000

13. We should sum up our estimate thus:—

I.—Special establishments			135,000
II.—Promotion of private grain trade...			340,000
III.—Relief works expenditure			1,000,000
IV.—Cost of Government grain—			
Purchase			3,784,000
Transport			1,750,000
V.—Charitable relief			200,000
VI.—Grants-in-aid of private works			50,000
VII.—Advances for purchase of grain and land improvements ...			500,000
Total .			7,759,000
Recoverable in 1874-75 { By grain sales .. .		1,000,000	
Recoverable in 1874-75 { By repayment of advances ...		250,000	
			1,250,000
Total			6,509,000
Recoverable in future years, including £300,000 realizable on account of grain advances to ryots, say			500,000
NET OUTLAY ...			6,109,000

No. 71.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the Chumpta and Durbhanga Railway, dated April 18, 1874.

Having seen the new railway from Chumpta to Durbhanga, which was opened on the 17th current, I desire to add my testimony to the remarkable skill and promptitude with which this undertaking has been carried out. The work was commenced on the 23rd February, and the first train ran through on the 17th April. As the distance amounts to 53 miles (besides sidings), the line must have been constructed at the rate of a mile a day. The materials for the permanent-way and the rolling-stock have had to be transported by boats over the Ganges. The line has been carried over three considerable streams or rivers. The operations have been conducted during one of the most inclement seasons of the year. From such facts some idea can be formed of the extraordinary exertions demanded by this service from all who took part in it.

Those who know the extreme needs of the population for whose sake the grain transport is organized,—the manifold risks and accidents to which such a transport is exposed, the grave consequences which might ensue if such misfortunes remained without remedy, the intense physical strain on the animal power available in the country for such work, the consequent importance of possessing mechanical means in reserve,—can fully estimate the almost priceless value of this railway at the present season.

Under the critical circumstances of the time, this value greatly depended on the line being finished by the middle of April. The securing of this particular result again depended on the efforts of the Engineer-in-Chief (Captain Stanton, R. E.), who has evinced first-rate aptitude for overcoming manifold obstacles, and great resolution in pursuing the object in view. It will be for his departmental superiors to do justice to the professional skill and ability displayed by him on this occasion.

I learn from him that Lieutenant Rathbourne, R. E., Executive Engineer, has been his right-hand man throughout these trying operations, and I desire to record the obligations which this district owes to Lieutenant Rathbourne. Captain Stanton also has mentioned to me the zealous assistance he has received from Mr. Cochrane, C. E., Executive Engineer, and from Mr. Moore, Mr. Warden, Lieutenant Kunhardt, R. E., Assistant Engineers. These gentlemen should also share in our acknowledgments.

The 32nd Regiment (Pioneers) and the 5th and 6th Companies of Sappers have been employed, under Captain Stanton's direction, in the execution of this work. The efficiency and devotion displayed by these troops in this duty will, I believe, be found to be worthy of the approbation of their military superiors. Where all have done so well, however, I desire to mention the highly favorable report I have received of the services and abilities of Captain Dodsworth, of the 32nd Regiment, and Lieutenant Morgan, R. E., Commanding 5th Company Sappers and Miners.

The co-operation of Mr. Stevens, Superintendent of Works, Durbhanga Raj, has proved of essential importance throughout these operations; and it is to his professional supervision and to his vigilant care that we must look for the employment of the time that yet remains before the rainy season for turning this temporary railway into a comparatively permanent line.

Lastly, we are greatly indebted to Mr. Guildford Molesworth, the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, for the foresight and boldness of conception with which he pronounced upon the practicability (from an engineering point of view) of the project which had been recommended by local authority.

No. 72.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the state of affairs in the Burdwan District, dated April 20, 1874.

Having visited some of the distressed parts of the Burdwan District in company with the Commissioner (Mr. Buckland), the Collector (Mr. Whinfield), and Mr. Cockburn, of the Police Department, I desire to record the following remarks.

2. The food-produce of the district consists almost entirely of rice; the autumn, or *aous* crop, amounts to one-eighth, the remainder consisting of the *amun*, or December crop. The spring harvest or rubbee consists of produce not edible.

3. The district consists in the main of two parts—1*st*, that between the rivers Ajye and Damooda; 2*nd*, that south of the Damooda. In most portions of that tract which lies between the Ajye and Damooda the rice crop has proved more or less bad, having a yield from two to four annas. In some portions near Burdwan city and station and towards the east the crop had a yield of six to ten annas. The worst sub-divisions in this tract are those of Bood-bood, Cutwa, and Raneegunge. In the tract south of the Damooda, towards the borders of Midnapore, the crops have been good, and in some places excellent.

4. The season of distress has commenced, and will last till September, after which date it will become mitigated more and more till December, when it will cease.

5. The Collector, by my direction, made a careful estimate of the number of persons who may be expected to require assistance from Government in each thannah of the district. The total amounts to 51,500. Considering that already there are about 9,000 persons on charitable relief, I should regard this estimate as moderate. I should have feared that it may be exceeded by the reality had it not been accepted by the Commissioner.

6. It is to be remarked, however, that this does not include any estimate of the number of ryots and others to whom advances might properly be made. The making of such advances in this district involves several difficult questions. Many ryots complained to me that they had difficulty in finding subsistence till the next harvest should come in, and that they could get no aid from their zemindars. Some of these men seemed to be well-to-do; others are, I was informed, really in straits. I have addressed the Commissioner on this very important subject, and until I can come to a definite conclusion with the district authorities, no estimate can be formed of the numbers who may receive assistance in this form: it may be considerable. Care must, however, be taken that Government does not assume to itself any duty which can be expected properly and fairly to devolve on the zemindars under the circumstances of the case.

7. I saw in different places several thousands of persons receiving relief in wages or in food. There were some persons emaciated, and many looking wretched from disease, though it is difficult to discern how much of the wretchedness arises from want and how much from fever. Most of them were in good physical condition. This was to be expected, inasmuch as they had been fed and cared for.

8. Until the epidemic fever set in a few years ago, the district seems to have enjoyed a good share of prosperity. Besides the depopulation from sickness, however, there has been a cycle of unfavorable seasons for the last eight or nine years. Notwithstanding this, the remarkable facilities for communication possessed by the district will probably preserve it from wide-spread distress, and certainly from any severe and sudden outburst. The public health seems better than it has been for some time past. Still the fact of want supervening upon sickness should induce us to treat the district in a very considerate manner.

9. Looking to the situation of the district, I trust that it will suffice for Government to give aid in cash only, and that no grain from without need be imported by Government.

10. I find that in the Bood-bood Sub-division there are eight small relief circles; but these are not circles in the sense in which the term is used in the more distressed districts; they correspond with the divisions which are called, "groups" in Behar, not "circles." As uniformity of nomenclature is desirable I have directed that they be termed groups. Each of these groups has an inspector on Rs. 50 a month; over these inspectors there is no officer save the sub-divisional officer (a native gentleman), who has many civil and judicial duties and no experience in relief work. There is a good native relief officer for the district, but he acts with the Collector as an inspector for the whole relief operations in the district. This establishment of inspectors, however good, does yet require some active supervision. I have therefore directed that two circles be formed, in each of which four of the existing groups will be placed. Over each circle one selected circle officer (native) on a suitable salary will be placed. The existing inspectors will be his assistants. Over the two circles the district relief officer (who will not be required under the revised arrangement) will be placed as a sub-divisional relief officer under the rules. In the Raneegunge portion of the district, circle arrangements are not likely to be required; it will suffice to give the European sub-divisional officer two good native assistants for relief work.

11. The system of labor appears to me to be suitable and good. The relief laborers are kept in two classes—1*st*, those who can really work (they are put upon the roads and do task-work, with a wage of two annas per diem); 2*nd*, those who cannot, such as women, children, sick, infirm, &c., &c. These are collected at selected places close to their homes, and given light work and supplied with cooked food. The work often consists of manufacture, sometimes also of tank excavation. The manufacturing work seemed to me to be well supervised, but not so the tank-work. The district authorities assure me that the insisting on the supply of food being cooked is necessary as a test to deter those who are not in absolute need. They consider that this precaution is necessary, inasmuch as the dispensing of relief on account of epidemic sickness during some years past has had an unavoidable tendency to pauperize some classes of the people.

12. I quite accept what is being done at present in this respect. I admit the value of the cooked food test in many places (especially in towns) where various degrees of need exist, and where it is often difficult to judge whether an applicant is a fit subject for relief or not. I hope it will continue to be enforced at all the towns in the district and such like places. But I should be doubtful of its value in the remote and rural parts of the Bood-bood and Cutwa Sub-divisions of this district, where two-thirds of the average crop have been lost this year, this misfortune too following several bad seasons, and befalling a population decimated by epidemic disease. There can unfortunately be no doubt that all the village people in these tracts, save the better few, are, or soon will be, distressed. It is hardly necessary to subject them to the taking of cooked food, which it is admitted that they dislike. Moreover, however good the arrangements for cooked food may be, they are, if applied to any

considerable area, still open to this objection, that they take people some distance, however short, from their homes; whereas the best plan is, if possible, to afford relief in the villages. Again, although the existing plan may suffice as an executive measure while the numbers continue comparatively small, it would prove insufficient if the numbers should largely increase. Further, the plan (if too largely developed) would involve the purchase of rice by Government on the spot (which tends to raise prices), while payment in money would suffice. As long as food is procurable in the local markets, it is better to afford relief in cash. I therefore have requested that while all existing relief houses be maintained as they are, yet as distress developes itself and numbers increase the village system may be carried out, whereby suitable employment at home on adequate wages may be found for those who cannot do hard work.

13. I find that there are sufficient relief roads projected within the afflicted tracts. In every village there are tanks, the clearing or deepening of which will afford excellent employment.

The zemindars of the district have taken advances largely for landed improvements, but only one or two advances in exceptional cases have been sanctioned for the purchase of grain. I have directed that the orders under which advances can be made to zemindars to enable them to help their ryots should be held to be applicable to the Burdwan District.

14. I had the pleasure to inspect a commodious relief house in the town of Burdwan, where 1,100 persons daily received uncooked food at the expense of the Maharajah of Burdwan and under the supervision of his Secretary, Mr. Miller.

15. In conclusion, I deem it right to commend the thoughtful exertions of the Commissioner (Mr. Buckland) and the Collector (Mr. Whinfield) in introducing an effective relief system into this district, and I trust that they will be able to give a satisfactory account of this district during the period of distress which is setting in.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Burdwan, No. 28T.-F., dated Camp Durbhanga, April 23, 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of a Minute which the Lieutenant-Governor has recorded after his visit to some of the distressed tracts of Burdwan in company with yourself and the Collector (see above).

2. I am to invite your special attention to the following points:—

Paragraphs 3 *and* 13, regarding the need for advancing money or grain to ryots on the security of the talookdars or other superior holders. Owing to the extension of the putnee system, the Maharajah of Burdwan cannot be expected to be responsible for the repayment of advances to ryots on his estates. But the talookdars and other subordinate proprietors must be induced to do their duty in this respect; in cases where the zemindars of all grades are unable to help, advances can be made on the collective security of all the ryots of a village. You will observe that concession G. of Circular No. 175, dated 17th January, has been made applicable to Burdwan.

Paragraph 10, which provides how the distressed area should be administered. A separate relief officer for the whole district will not be required when Baboo Bogola Nand is placed in separate relief charge of a relief subdivision, which will comprise the afflicted parts of Bood-bood and Cutwa. The relief officials under Baboo Bogola Nand, should be appointed at once by you on the nomination of the Collector. They should be chosen, if possible, from among the Native Civil Service candidates at the last examination; if the Collector cannot nominate fit persons, you must make the appointments yourself. The two circle officers should receive salaries (inclusive of travelling allowance) of Rs. 120 to 150; and the Raneegunge sub-division official should be of the same grade.

Baboo Bogola Nand will control the relief affairs of his relief sub-division under the direct orders of the Collector; and you should decide upon the limits of his relief charge, and on the place he should make his head-quarters.

Paragraphs 11 *and* 12, where the Lieutenant-Governor's views as to the undesirability of extending the application of the "cooked food" test to large rural areas in the Bood-bood and Cutwa sub-divisions.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the Collector, acting under your orders, will be able to carry out the instructions conveyed in the Minute at a very early date.

No. 73.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District, dated Monghyr, April 27, 1874.

From April 16th to Sunday 26th inclusive, I was marching about the Durbhanga and Madhobunee Sub-divisions.

In the Durbhanga Sub-division I found the relief circle and sub-circle or group system completely organized in all its details. Every cluster of village (from five to ten in number) was formed into a group, or sub-circle, with a native official, and a store of grain with its store-keeper; so that every village could be visited twice a week or even oftener, and Government grain be within reach at a distance of two or three miles at the furthest. Each sub-circle, too, was being frequently inspected by the circle officer and his assistants.

The organization, as stated above, may seem simple enough. Its real magnitude, and the difficulty of enforcing it, will only be apparent when the area and population are borne in mind.

Sales of Government grain to the public, as well as to the relief laborers, were generally going on. Some employment was still being given on the roads, but was for the most part afforded by the excavation of the old tanks in nearly every village. Piecework (whereby a man receives so much according to a fixed rate for so much work done as ascertained by measurement) was being successfully substituted for the payment of daily wages. The agency of Jeyt ryots or village headmen was being largely used.

In one case only did I hear of any serious difficulty occurring from the cessation of daily wages on a road near Durbhanga. I believe, however, that the persons concerned, estimated at 20,000 in number, have by this time been safely drafted on to village works.

The circle and sub-circle or group officials had gone the rounds of every village in order to search out every fit recipient of charitable relief, and to give to each person of this description a ticket entitling him or her to receive so much grain from the nearest Government granary. When a whole family was to be thus assisted, one ticket was issued for the family.

Every circle had competent officers, most of them zealous and able men. I only heard of one exception, and he will be immediately replaced. There were subordinate medical establishments up to full complement. The public works were supervised by professional engineers and overseers.

Of the sub-circle or group officials, some were good, others indifferent. It is very difficult to find on the spot good men of this class, and scarcely less difficult to obtain them from distant districts. I hope, however, to see this branch of the establishment improved week by week.

The theory of the system then, as applied to a sub-division like Durbhanga, with a population of nearly a million, is good enough. If the practice is as yet imperfect in several respects, no effort will be spared to perfect it day by day. For instance, there was difficulty in some of the eastern circles in making the sub-circle or group officials search out all the fit recipients for charitable relief. These officials would go their rounds, make a list of such recipients in every village, and cause tickets to be issued. Presently the circle officer would go round to see whether this work had been completely done, and would find still here and there some feeble person who had not got a ticket, and so on. Much therefore depends on rigorous inspection.

Despite shortcomings, however (which are, I trust, in train of rectification), the general, perhaps the universal, opinion, official and non-official, European and native, at Durbhanga at this moment is, that the famine in

that sub-division has been, and is being, checked effectually. As to the extent of the famine, opinions will necessarily differ. Those who do not reside in the midst of the distress may sometimes be incredulous of the magnitude of the misfortune. The statistics, however, though not always accurate, are in the main correct, and they reveal the great dimensions of the affair. The civil officers believe (which belief I fully share), that in most parts of this great sub-division the scarcity has reduced, or soon will reduce, the majority, in some places even the great majority, of the people to a condition of dependence on State assistance for several months.

In the Madhobunee Sub-division, I found the first noteworthy circumstances to be this, that the eastern portion, known as the Alapore tract, and the extreme north-eastern corner of Tirhoot where the destruction of the crops was worst, which all native opinion pointed to as the probable scene of the severest distress, is not as yet seriously distressed. The best opinion seems to be, that this being a surplus-producing tract in ordinary years, there are somewhere on the spot considerable stocks wherewith the people can for a time bear up against the total loss of this year. Such stocks may be chiefly in the possession of those who could afford to hold them in the expectation of famine prices, but who prefer to sell now, seeing the Government preparation in all directions round about them. If the stocks are thus held, the question to be borne in mind is,—how long will they last? If they fail soon, I trust that the preparations are ample to meet the crisis that would immediately occur. Meanwhile the distress, though not so serious as elsewhere, is bad, and about one-fourth of the population are receiving assistance from Government in some shape or other.

In the rest, about two-thirds of the Madhobunee Sub-division, where the failure of the crops was not so bad as in Alapore, the present distress is considerably greater. Food grain is hardly to be bought, even at famine prices in many places, and in some places not at all. Over large tracts there are no employments, no wages, for the rural population. Multitudes more and more, day by day, seek Government aid either as laborers or as purchasers of Government grain, till at length the whole people, with individual exceptions, will come to be fed from our granaries. There is fair reason to hope, however, that our resources will prove equal even to this strain.

One critical difficulty in Central and Western Madhobunee claimed my attention immediately on my arrival there. Owing to the extraordinarily sudden manner in which, towards the end of March, the people flocked to the central relief roads under the Public Works Department, and to their unreasonable aversion to be separated into moderately sized gangs among the village works, it had been necessary, from regard to their safety, to permit them to stay for a while upon these roads on daily wages. This plan, though quite unavoidable for a time, had a demoralizing effect upon the people, and led to many abuses. Accordingly, the local authorities, in pursuance of the sound and excellent principles laid down in the Note of Sir George Campbell of the 28th March, determined that the time had come when the plan of piece-work must be substituted for that of daily wages on the roads under the Public Works Department. The hope was that the better portion of the laborers would accept the piecework terms at once; that another large portion would be successfully drafted on to the village works, and that those who might offer passive resistance by leaving the works and going out of employ would very soon see the advantages of the piecework terms. The intention of the local authorities was good in itself, but the success in its execution was less than they expected. Almost the whole number, estimated at 200,000, left the works, declining the piecework terms. A very few came back immediately afterwards on piecework; a large number were drafted on to the village works under the circle officers, and many, who were not fit for any save nominal work, were admitted to the lists of charitable relief. After allowing for all this, however, I found that numbers, estimated at 80,000 to 100,000, had remained out of employ for several days, subsisting on the little savings from their earnings of the daily wage system, but verging nearer and nearer towards the extremity of destitution. And although the circle officers were busily attracting people to the village works, their complete and speedy success was uncertain. It was necessary, therefore, to immediately reconsider the case.

Inquiry showed that these ignorant people imagined the piecework terms to be so hard as to prevent an ordinary untrained villager from earning subsistence under them, and thought it better to languish at home than perish on the roads. This erroneous notion had doubtless been propagated by head gangmen and others who gained improperly by the daily wage system. The terms proposed were not really hard. Still there was room for doubt whether they were sufficiently liberal, regard being had to the inaptitude of those people for labor of this sort; to the large proportion of women and children, persons enfeebled by age or otherwise; to the hardness of the parched up soil and other local circumstances, and to the high prices of all food grains, including the Government grain. I therefore decided, after consulting the local authorities, to immediately promulgate new terms much more liberal, indeed as liberal as could properly be offered. In the neighbourhood of my camp, large numbers returned to the roads on the new terms. But as the village works have been, and are being, extended in every direction, almost within reach of every village, large numbers who were once on the roads will prefer to work in the villages—a result much to be desired. But in one way or other, either on the roads or in all villages, I trust that ere this all persons who were ever employed, or who can properly be employed, on relief works, will be receiving assistance in this shape. On the whole, I believe that the Madhobunee relief works, which did undoubtedly cause us anxiety for several days, will be re-established on a scale as large as, or larger than, ever, and this, too, with a distinct improvement in system. From what has been already said of the condition and prospects of the people, these works are needed on the largest scale practicable.

But here the question arises,—what are the village works on which so much reliance is to be placed? They consist almost entirely of the excavation or deepening of existing tanks, and sometimes of the construction of new tanks. During this season of drought many tanks have dried up. They are now being dug out till springs of water are reached (at say 20 to 25 feet below the general surface of the country). This operation will at once afford some water-supply, the failure of which is much threatened everywhere. Ultimately, it will improve the permanent water-supply of man and beast for future years. One consequence of the present trouble will hereafter be, the setting the tanks of the district in good order for very many years to come.

The next question would be whether the 'circle' and 'sub-circle' or 'group' system in Madhobunee is so well established as to bear the increased pressure that will now be put upon it. Having tested several circles with a view of ascertaining this, I feel a fair hope that it will not be found at all wanting. There are good circle officers (with some few exceptions which will be set right), with competent assistants with adequate supplies at command; there are the officials and the granaries in every group of villages; there are the sales of grain to the public; there are the holders of tickets for charitable relief in every village; there are the petty grain dealers ready to distribute the Government grain; there are the head ryots ready to help in supervising the tank-digging portioned out to the villagers—in short, all the men in all grades are at their respective posts in a comprehensive and wide-reaching organization.

Passing from the particular sub-divisions of Durbhanga and Madhobunee which I have visited, I will add some remarks relating to other parts of the distressed districts, or to those districts generally.

In Seetamurree, North-West Tirhoot, and in Bettiah and Ramnuggur, North-West Chumparun, the distress is not as yet so great as was expected. In Sarun the prospect is uncertain. In Soopole, North Bhaugulpore, the distress threatens to prove bad. By the most recent intelligence the position has become rapidly worse; while it holds off in the Monghyr District bordering on the Gangetic valley.

Throughout Behar the want of spring showers has destroyed the hope that had sprung up of aid from various quick-growing supplementary crops.

On the other hand, the successful harvesting of the fine spring crops on both banks of the Ganges has afforded relief to the neighbouring tracts of the distressed districts.

As regards the contract arrangements (both large contracts and petty contracts for transport in Behar, including the Patna and Bhaugulpore Commissionerships), those in the districts of Purneah, Bhaugulpore, Monghyr,

Chumparun, Sarun, and in Western Tirhoot have worked excellently, redounding to the credit of all concerned. Besides commending the officers engaged, I deem it my duty to state that the non-official gentlemen engaged merit the thanks of the province of Behar. But in Eastern and North-Eastern Tirhoot, the most important parts of all, the arrangements (though made on the same plan and principle as elsewhere) have proved less successful. Whatever deficiencies, however, may exist in this difficult line are being, and will be, promptly and effectually supplied by the two reserve arrangements at the disposal of the local Government, namely, the Durbhanga State Railway and the organized carriage obtained from the North-Western Provinces. The exertions of the engineer officers in charge of the State Railway works, and the co-operation of the Government of the North-Western Provinces, have been of vitally essential service to the relief operations in Eastern Tirhoot.

Throughout Behar the public health continues more than ordinarily good. There is no sort of epidemic disease among the cattle at present.

As regards the Rajshahye Relief Division, the distress in the Dinagepore District is less than was expected; favorable spring showers having fallen there, the period of distress will probably be shortened. In the Rungpore District, the distress threatens to be quite as bad as, and in the Bogra and Maldah Districts, to be somewhat worse than, was expected.

In the Rungpore District, near the valley of the Brahmapootra, some outbreaks of epidemic cholera have disturbed the transit arrangements.

On the whole, writing at the end of April, I find the situation of the distressed districts north of the Ganges to be not at all worse than the anticipation as expressed in my original estimates of the distress. In many places it is even not quite so bad; in some places (and those the most important) it is quite as bad. Thus, while there is no reason whatever now apparent for doubting the adequacy of the preparations by Government, neither is there any for hoping that we shall escape from a trouble of the magnitude which has been estimated. Under this view it will be found that the utmost activity prevails throughout the whole scene of our operations, in its length from the Gunduck to the Brahmapootra, and in its breadth from the Ganges to the Nepaul frontier.

No. 74.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on non-official aid in the Mozufferpore Sub-division of the Tirhoot District, dated May — 1874.

I append extract copy from a memorandum by the Commissioner of Patna (see below), whereby it appears that several gentlemen, indigo planters in the Mozufferpore sub-division of Tirhoot, have successfully undertaken relief duties among the villages in their respective neighbourhoods.

2. Some salary is allowed to their European assistants, and some small ministerial establishment is sanctioned.

3. It was from the first contemplated that this valuable non-official aid should be accepted by Government, and I observe the present report with great satisfaction. The gentlemen concerned will doubtless find their reward in the preservation of their tenantry and their neighbours from sickness or death.

4. I beg that this expression of my satisfaction may be communicated to the Collector of Tirhoot.

5. I desire also that a copy of this Minute and its appendix, &c., be sent to the Collectors of Chumparun and Sarun, in the hope that I may have the pleasure of receiving a similar report from those districts also.

Memorandum by S. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, dated Mozufferpore, April 7, 1874.

The prospects of the Sudder sub-division have not much altered since I was here three months ago. There has been a marked rush to relief works at some places (1,100 people employed in one small tank at Soomeyra). I saw 600 on another at Goburdhunpore, and altogether over 30,000 come now to the relief works in the sub-division. But though there is a great demand for

work, I do not anticipate any great scarcity of grain, and believe distress will be met by multiplying small relief works, without having to give any largely in gratuitous relief.

The Sudder sub-division will now be organized as follows:—

Distress, it is said, is likely to be most severely felt in the east and north-east, and there the assistance to be obtained from planters is less than in the west of the sub-division. Accordingly in that part of the sub-division, Mr. Worsley has constructed circles at Belsundh, Toorkee, Kutra, Rajkund, and in the Sudder. Each of these would have on an average from 180 to 200 villages, except the Sudder circle, where the facilities of supervision being greater, as many as 500 villages are included in one circle.

The establishment for these circles is as follows:—

1. *Belsundh.*—Circle officer, Deputy Collector Hurshonath Gangooly.

1st assistant, Sunt Sahai.
2 native assistants, on Rs. 30 each.

The circle has been divided into groups, but group officers have still to be appointed.

Mr. Gordon will lose no time in nominating respectable residents, if possible, as group officers, and putting them in communication with selected representatives of *each* village, usually a Jeyt ryot or putwaree, who will give in lists of those who cannot work, and to whom gratuitous relief is absolutely necessary, and who will be remunerated for the work done. It must be recollected that the village is the unit, not the group, or the circle, and our organization must be strong at the village, or it will be of no use strengthening it as above.

2. *Toorkee.*—Circle officer (not appointed) Mr. Spray.

1st assistant, Gouri Sunker Sahai (local).
1 sub-assistant (local).

The above remarks as to the appointment of group officers and village representatives apply to this circle equally with the last.

3. *Kutra.*—Circle officer, Mr. Woorman.

1st assistant, Nazir Ally (local).
2nd sub-assistant (local).

The process of grouping is now going on.

4. *Rajkund.*—Circle officer, Mr. Goldney.

1st assistant, Binod Basant Persad.
2nd sub-assistant (local).

Has still to be grouped.

Sudder.—1st, Town, a sub-committee under Mr. Richardson looks after charitable relief.

2nd, Village circle—

Civil officer, Mr. Warde Jones.
1st assistant, Mr. Orr.
2nd assistant, Bolaki Loll.
3 sub-assistants (local).

In addition to the above staff, a North-Western Provinces' tehsildar, and a ressaldar, and three duffadars of the Central India Horse, are employed in different parts of the sub-division in making inquiries with a view to relief and advances. As the circles are organized, it will be desirable to distribute these officers, though it will always be well for Mr. Worsley to keep one good officer, such as the tehsildar, at his head-quarters, for inquiries, wherever necessary.

The Sudder circle is so large that I should recommend its being divided into two, the available staff being quite large enough. For the western portion of the sub-division, Mr. Worsley proposes a different system of organization. This part of the district is very thickly studded with factories, so much so that there is not a village which does not fall, geographically, within the limits of the *ilaka* of one or other of these factories.

The planters have already rendered much assistance, and have offered to do the whole work of relief in this part.

The factories are—

Kantai, with outwork ...	Regi.
Moutipore, with two outworks	Marwarpore and Chuk Lowran.
Sahibgunge, with outworks	Majowlie and Kurmuwari.
Saraya, with two works ..	Kewalpora and Azizpore.
Jyntpore.	

Altogether there are six managers and nine assistants, and the number of villages which would come under their organization is about 700.

We propose to give them, as establishment, a group officer to every four villages, generally a respectable resident, whose remuneration will vary, but may be put down at an average of Rs. 10 a month, and the same arrangement in regard to village representatives will hold good here as elsewhere. They prefer this to larger groups and more highly-paid group officers.

The managers of the factories undertake the duty of looking after village works and supervising charitable relief without remuneration; but we propose their assistants, on whom the main labor will fall, should receive Rs. 100 a month each, and we allow a writer on Rs. 25 to each Sudder factory.

Mr. Worsley keeps the working of this organization entirely in his own hands, and as I see great advantages in working through the planters, and some difficulty in starting a fresh organization independent of them, I quite concur in Mr. Worsley's proposal, and approve of its being carried out.

The duties of getting lists of people from each village; of starting and supervising village works, and giving charitable relief; of sending in regular returns of people receiving relief, and of the number of people employed, are fully understood and accepted by the managers as what they undertake and are responsible for, in consideration of the remuneration given to their assistants and of the establishment allowed by Government. I have no doubt that they can, and will, perform this duty better, and with less waste and less imposition than any outside organization we could establish. The names of the gentlemen are given below:—

Kantee.—Mr. Brown.

Regai.—*Mr. W. Llewhellin.

Moteepore.—Mr. J. Fraser.

Morarpore.—*Mr. Barclay.
Chuk Lowrun.—*Mr. Abbott.

Sahibgunge.—Mr. J. Macdonald.

Muncearee.—*Mr. Booth.
One more assistant* to be appointed.

Doorreah.—Mr. Studd.

Mujowlee.—*Mr. S. Hamilton.
Kurnmendaree.—*Mr. Robertson.

Saraya.—Mr. H. Macdonald.

Kewuljwia.—*Mr. Mackintosh.
Azizpore.—*Mr. Thomas.

Jyntpore.—Mr. Abbott.

Those marked with an asterisk will receive the remuneration of Rs. 100 a month.

The total expenditure of this establishment is estimated at Rs. 3,068 a month, or about Rs. 4 a village, but this is exclusive of remuneration of putwarees, &c.

As previously arranged, the grain for the supply of these circles, so far as it is necessary to supply Government grain, will be met from the assignment of 12 lakhs of maunds of which Sir Richard Temple has arranged for transmission into Seetamurree.

There are now some 38,000 maunds in the sub-division, and in addition to this 1,35,000 maunds more will, it is estimated, be required.

The Collector will arrange with Colonel MacGregor for stopping this from the supplies estimated for on account of the Seetamurree side of the district, and for distributing it to the storage places.

No. 75.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the working of the temporary Telegraph lines, dated May 7, 1874.

The temporary lines of electric telegraph in the distressed districts north of the Ganges having been now completed, I desire to record some brief acknowledgment of the advantage which has accrued, and will further accrue, to the operations from telegraphic communication.

The telegraph lines in Tirhoot, Chumparun, and North Bhaugulpore, erected in connection with famine operations, extend over 525 miles in all, of which 142 miles are permanent line.

They were commenced in the beginning of February, and were completed before the end of March. Cables have been carried across the Ganges at two places.

There are now telegraph offices open at Hajeepore, Mozufferpore, Tajpore, Nagurbustee, Chumpta, Durbhanga, Madhobunee, Naraya, Seetamurree, Motihari, Segowlie, Bettiah, Ramnuggur, and Soopole—all which places are in the very heart of the most distressed tracts, and are the most important points of the operations against the famine.

A telegraph office for the Northern Bengal (State) Railway having been established at Parbuttipore, midway between Dinagepore and Rungpore, temporary lines have been made to both of the two last-named places, which are the head-quarters of the districts where much distress exists.

Already many thousands of messages have been sent by these new lines, and as the most important of the messages are those sent by or addressed to the local Government, I am able to certify to the accuracy and punctuality with which the telegraphic business is done. Already this new telegraph has rendered signal service on many critical occasions ; it has been more than once the means of preventing injury to the relief operations, and of averting danger to life. And on all occasions it affords facilities which could not otherwise exist for imparting an immediate impulse to local proceedings, or for causing instant rectification of administrative error.

But the securing of all these advantages depended on the lines being constructed in good time. To effect this, a more than ordinary degree of executive promptitude and departmental skill was required, together with general aptitude and energy for the despatch of work in the field. And these are the qualities displayed in the fulfilment of this undertaking by Major Mallock, the Superintendent of the work.

He specially mentions among his assistants Mr. Reynolds and the Assistant Superintendents Messrs. Landon, Hare, Maclean, and Kirk, as well as the Sub-Assistant Mr. Webster. To them, also, our cordial acknowledgments are due.

I trust, however, that their services are not yet ended, for many parts of the temporary lines have yet to be strengthened, so that they may last through the rainy season, the very season indeed when the telegraphic service is particularly needed. I am glad to find that this work is receiving due attention, and I trust that this work will be executed with the same efficiency as the original.

It seems to me that the manner in which telegraphic stores and materials were despatched to the necessary points, and in which first-rate men were selected for the work, is worthy of the high reputation of the Director General of Telegraphs in India and of his Department.

No. 76.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C S.I., on the grain requirements of, and the organization of relief circles in, the Maunbhoom District, dated May 10, 1874.

On the 14th of April, I summoned Colonel Rowlatt, the Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom, to meet me at Burdwan. It had been previously known to the Government of Bengal that some distress was threatened there, and a provision of 50,000 maunds of grain had been made. But the local authorities

had been originally sanguine that there would be no appreciable deficiency of food ; and though at times apprehensions had been casually expressed, no fear seemed to have been felt for the safety of any considerable part of the population of the district.

2. On the 14th April, however, Colonel Rowlatt distinctly reported that he had begun to fear the approach of severe distress among a population of about 350,000 souls. He then seemed to anticipate that the greater part of the above number would need assistance from Government for three months, or perhaps more, and he asked that the provision of 50,000 maunds might be increased to 1,50,000 maunds. On its being pointed out to him that 1,50,000 maunds would not suffice to sustain the above number for the period supposed, he did not seem prepared to give a precise calculation without further consideration.

I therefore immediately requested the Commissioner, Colonel Dalton, to visit the district, and after conferring with Colonel Rowlatt to report fully.

Meanwhile I arranged for 3,000 maunds daily being sent by rail to the district, and instructed Colonel Rowlatt to arrange for carrying away that quantity daily by carts to the depôts in the distressed tracts.

3. I have to-day received Colonel Dalton's report. He confirms the report of impending distress. He presents a revised estimate by Colonel Rowlatt to the effect that out of 346,297 persons 120,000 will need assistance from Government for three months. He considers that at least 1,50,000 maunds, and probably more, will be needed. He recommends that active measures of relief be adopted, but does not exactly propose dividing the distressed tracts off into relief circles. He advises that assistance be principally afforded by granting advances of grain to the cultivators. The existing relief works being nearly finished, he proposes the excavation of old tanks as a capital mode of affording relief.

4. Having considered the case, I would make the following arrangements :—

I take the calculation of 120,000 souls to need assistance from Government as given by Colonel Rowlatt, and which ought to cover the actual distress, as it constitutes a large proportion of the population concerned.

At ¾ of a seer per head per diem for three months, this would give 2,00,000 maunds. I would accordingly provide 2,10,000 maunds, allowing 5 per cent. for wastage. The quantity is not large to come out of the general reserve, and there will be no difficulty in conveying it by rail. The difficulty will be to cart it to the depôts before the rains set in.

5. I regret to find that, notwithstanding my injunctions, only 32,000 maunds have been carted away out of 65,000 maunds delivered by rail. Evidently 3,000 maunds a day cannot have been carted away, and I cannot be sure that the transport is in an efficient condition. Lieutenant Elliott had been previously deputed to supervise the transport in Maunbhoom. But the matter is becoming so urgent that an officer of proved experience and ability must be sent to place the inland transport on an effective footing. I have therefore deputed Captain Grant (who has so well supervised the successful contracts in Bhaugulpore and Monghyr) to Maunbhoom for this purpose. I have no doubt that he will soon arrange for the speedy transit of all the Government grain that may be ordered.

6. I consider that the distressed tract, consisting of a piece between the Rivers Burrakur and Damooda, and another piece south of the Damooda, must be divided into four relief circles, two of which should have their centres at Gobindpore and Rughonathpore, and the two others at places to be fixed by Colonel Rowlatt. As circle officers the following gentlemen are available:—

Captain Samuells.
Mr. Hare.
„ . Mackenzie.
„ Gupta, C.S.

For first assistants in the circles the following native gentlemen are available :—

Baboo Judoonath Chowdhry, Deputy Magistrate.
Kristo Persad Chowdry, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Mr. Banerjee, late Deputy Magistrate.
Baboo Rai Churn Ghose, B A.

7. The circle organization as now established in the distressed districts in the north must be set up in this tract. Each circle is to be divided into "groups" or "sub-circles" of from 10 to 15 villages, in each of which there must be a native official to be appointed locally by the Deputy Commissioner. If possible, such persons as hereditary village accountants, jeyt ryots, and the like should be selected. In each group there must be a small Government granary. The first duty of the group officer will be to go round every village constantly in order to search out those who from seclusion, delicate nurture, caste prejudice, weakness, age, or other reason cannot work, and can only be saved by gratuitous relief. He will then immediately give a list of such persons present to the circle officer in order that tickets may be issued entitling them to so much grain.

8. I entirely concur in the views of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner regarding the utility of giving advances to the cultivators. I beg, however, that these advances may be given, so far as possible, in grain. I believe it to be true that many of these peasants cannot work on the public works without feeling a sort of humiliation, and it is more reasonable to grant them advances which they will repay after future harvests. But the period of repayment proposed by Colonel Dalton (31st December) is too short; I would allow at least six months additional. I further concur with those officers in prescribing the excavation of tanks close to the villages as one of the best modes of affording relief to the lower classes. I have already authorized Colonel Dalton to sell Government grain at any place within this tract where he may think necessary.

9. I have no doubt that Colonel Rowlatt will actively administer, and Colonel Dalton rigorously supervise, the relief measures in this district. They ought to have foreseen more completely and reported earlier to the local Government the probability of severe distress, and in this respect responsibility does attach to them. But they will doubtless now retrieve that shortcoming by effective exertions, and indeed there is not a day to be lost.

No. 77.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on the condition of affairs in the Sarun District, dated May 10, 1874.

Having had an opportunity of conferring at Arrah with Mr. Drummond and Captain May regarding the affairs of the Sarun District, I have to record the following observations.

2. The spring harvest is reported in most parts of the district, save the Gangetic part, to have been worse than the estimate. Where a four to six annas yield was hoped for, some two to four annas yield only has been obtained. Consequently distress is increasing, and may exceed the estimate. On the other hand, it is encouraging to observe that prices are not so dear as in some districts of Behar.

3. In the whole district there are nearly 200,000 persons on the relief works (including Hutwa). A few only are on piece-work; the rest are on daily wages. A large number belong to the higher castes, Brahmins and Rajpoots; these will not accept piece-work. It is feared that the women and children will dread the effect of piece-work, and that the able-bodied alone will be induced to agree. On the other hand, Mr. Drummond and Captain May affirm that the daily wage people are not out of hand and do perform a fair amount of work, as can be seen from the measurement and the rates of charge. When the people come suddenly in numbers, there may be some confusion for a few days, which ceases as soon as the gangs are separated off.

4. The rates of piece-work, Re. 1-14 and Rs. 2, are somewhat low perhaps, considering the high prices of food and the low capacity of the people concerned. They may suffice for the able-bodied, but not for the women and children, nor for the weakly men. The Collector is authorized to offer increased rates to all those who are not able-bodied. He should endeavour to induce them to try piece-work, but should carefully avoid introducing any general change suddenly. But he should insist on the able-bodied doing either task-work or piece-work.

5. Still, where the Collector finds that the existing supervision secures under the daily wage system an amount of work nearly as favorable as that which would be obtained under the piece-work system, he may adhere to daily wages for a short time which now remains before the working season is closed by the rains.

6. For the future all relief labor is to be paid in grain by one or other of the prescribed methods. The attention of the Collector is requested to this.

7. Looking to the increasing distress, and especially to the Collector's report of failing supplies in the tracts towards the River Gunduck, in Thannahs Mushruck and Busuntpore particularly, I consider that further steps must be taken towards the organization of village relief.

8. It has been from the first understood that as European gentlemen (indigo planters) and large native zemindars are residing in almost every part of the district, a regular organization of relief circles (after the system which obtains in some districts) would not be necessary. I am now glad to find that there are 62 circles or sub-circles supervised by these gentlemen, European and Native. It is, however, necessary to offer remuneration to some of the planters' assistants. I have authorized the Collector to make temporary allowances to twenty of these gentlemen up to Rs. 125 per mensem in each case; also in any case where he sees fit the Collector may allow salaries for one or more native clerks employed by the planters for the relief work. Under the non-official superintendents there must be native officials over "groups" of villages; a group to consist of from 10 to 15 villages. For each group a native official must be employed on a salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a month. I hope that the Collector may find village accountants, head ryots, and others on the spot to fill these subordinate offices.

These arrangements will become especially necessary as soon as the rains set in. The relief works, which are probably now maintaining all the distressed people, will then cease. Many of these people will find agricultural occupation after June. But there will remain large numbers for whom some arrangements must be made in the villages. It is then that the resources of the group system will come into play, by searching out deserving or necessitous cases village by village and house by house.

9. The use of non-official agency for supervision of relief, which is larger in this district than in any other, is honorable to all concerned.

10. The Collector considers that an additional allotment of nearly 1,00,000 maunds of grain should be made to the Sarun District. But he has already received 50,000 maunds above the allotment, and I doubt the necessity of any further increase. It is true that the distress is reported somewhat greater than was expected; still very little grain has been yet expended, the assistance having been afforded in money. Assistance could, if necessary, be afforded during the rains from the Rivers Gunduck and Gogra and their affluents. The private trade is active, and prices are not so high as in some of the neighboring districts. I have, therefore, intimated that no more grain will be sent at present. The transit carriage and cattle can be discharged. The two officers engaged therein (Major Jackson and Mr. Tonnerre) will be available for relief work.

11. The manner in which grain has been transported into the interior some weeks within the time is satisfactory and creditable to the Collector.

12. The advances of subsistence to cultivators through the zemindars have been well and carefully begun in this district. They will have, I apprehend, to be carried on during the rainy season. Heretofore they have been made in money; for the future whatever is allowed in this way must be in grain. To this also the attention of the Collector is requested.

13. As private trade, always active here, continues to import grain largely, the sale of Government grain to the public will not be necessary.

14. As some 20,000 laborers are still needed in the Shahabad District for the canal works, I have requested the Collector to use his utmost endeavours to send laborers from Sarun across the Ganges to Shahabad.

15. I continue to hold the same favorable opinion as that expressed in my Minute No. 18 of the 12th February (see p. 243) regarding the thoughtful, considerate, and effective manner in which the Collector, Mr. J. S. Drummond, has conducted the relief operations in Sarun. I also consider that Captain May

has proved a valuable coadjutor to him, and has contributed much to the success which has already been attained. I trust that this success may continue to the end.

No. 78.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., on reserve water carriage during the rainy season, dated May 16, 1874.

The time has come when I should state the provision which might properly be made for water carriage during the coming rainy reason. I say "might properly" instead of "must," because of 350,000 tons of grain to be carried by land carriage from the north bank of the Ganges, 300,000 tons, six-sevenths of the whole, were so carried before the middle of May, leaving only 50,000 tons, or one-seventh, to be carried. It may be presumed that all the quantities will be carried to their various destinations by the middle of June.

2. Considering that, besides the 350,000 tons, there are 20,000 tons for districts south of the Ganges, making in all 370,000 tons,—that this allotment was made as being sufficient for the sustenance of 3½ millions of persons requiring assistance in some shape from Government; that the actual number by the middle of May hardly exceeds 2 millions; that by the middle of May not more than 20,000 tons have been consumed,—I believe that we have enough grain to sustain all those who need assistance, even if they number the full 3½ millions, until the middle of October, and perhaps even till November.

3. If the next harvest of rice in September should be prosperous throughout the non-distressed districts, we should not have to sustain the full number till October, though we may have to sustain a small number through October and November. In that case we may probably have more than enough grain. Even if the September harvest should partially fail, still we may find that there is enough for all till October, perhaps till November; in other words, even if the September harvest fails, no large additional supplies need be laid in till October. If such supplies were required, they would have to be carried by water.

I state these considerations in order to show that there is no urgent demand for water carriage in order to convey additional supplies. If such supplies shall be needed, there is yet time to arrange for carrying them by water.

4. But although we hope to have sufficient stores laid in before the rainy season to last through that season, still it is to be remembered that those stores have to be placed at many points scattered over a large area of country over which distress prevails in a variety of degrees, in some parts more, in others less. Of course endeavour has been made to apportion the stores according to the degrees of need. It is, however, difficult to foresee exactly such degrees of distress. It will happen, indeed it has already happened, that in some places the actual distress is more, in others less, than what on our antecedent review of the local circumstances would have been deemed probable. It may, therefore, during the rainy season be necessary to send some additional supplies to some places, perhaps to transfer supplies from places overstocked to places understocked, and so on.

Again there is the chance of unforeseen emergencies and accidents, which might cause us to need means of transport at a season when such transport would not be available on land.

5. The possession then of some moderate resources for transport by water is necessary. A precise calculation cannot be given to prove what the amount of such resources ought to be, because they are of the nature of a reserve.. But I will state what we already have, what we propose to obtain in addition, and where I desire to station the reserve.

6. I shall not take into account the steam navigation of the Ganges, or of the Brahmapootra up to Goalundo, nor even of the Ganges above that point, except in regard to the crossing of the great river from one side to the other. Thus far the transit will continue to be done by rail; or if it has to be done by steam to any extent, steamers of a comparatively large size would have to be employed. The rivers on which I propose to keep a moderate reserve of small

steamers and country boats are those which join the Ganges on its left or north bank.

7. These numerous affluents usually join two, three, or four together, rolling for a short distance in an united stream to join the great river; consequently there are several main junction points where complete systems of streams meet the great river, each of which points would serve as a point of departure for our inland navigation. It is at these points then that our reserve water carriage should be stationed, and they may be stated thus—from west to east :—

Revelgunge.—Junction of the Gogra with the Ganges and of its affluents which run through the Sarun District.

Khagurrea.—Junction of the Bhoor Gunduck and its affluents running through Central and East Tirhoot.

Caragola.—Near the mouth of the Koosee and its affluents running through North-Eastern Tirhoot, North Bhaugulpore, and West Purneah.

Godagaree.—Junction of the Mahanuddee and its affluents running through Purneah and Western Dinagepore.

Rampore Beauleah.—Near Junction of the Burrul and its affluents running through Eastern Dinagepore and Western Rungpore.

7. The small steamers and barges at our disposal for the navigation of the smaller rivers are these :—

	Steamers	Barges.
Coming from England	10	5
Being made at Calcutta	4	12
Already existing in India	4	5
TOTAL ...	18	22

The steamers carry about 30 tons each, and the barges 30 to 50 tons each.

8. I have arranged with the Chief Commissioner of Oudh to send down to the Ganges 800 canoes, carrying about 50 maunds each. These vessels, made by the Forest Department at Fyzabad, will arrive at Revelgunge soon after the middle of June.

9. I have directed the local authorities to engage the services of 4,000 country boats at the various places on the rivers, of suitable draught and build, and carrying from 100 to 500 maunds, according to the circumstances of each river, the average capacity being represented by about 250 maunds. These boats are not to be actually taken into employ, but are to be produced at 15 days' notice; and the arrangement will, I trust, prove inexpensive. As the boats on the great river and its tributaries are exceedingly numerous (many tens of thousands), there will not be any difficulty in securing the limited number of boats which I propose, nor in adding to that number, if necessary.

10. The steamers and barges I would distribute among the several junction points as below :—

	Steamers.	Barges.
Revelgunge, Hajeepore	4	5
Khagurrea or Colgong	7	9
Godagaree	4	5
Rampore Beauleah	3	3

The canoes I would send up the Googree, an affluent of the Koosee, to a point near the junction of the Bolan and the Teeljooga, by which two streams they could carry supplies to North-Eastern Tirhoot.

The country boats I would station at the junction points as below :—

	C. Boats.
Revelgunge, Hajeepore	750
Khagurrea .	1,500
Godagaree ...	1,000
Rampore Beauleah	750

11. The carrying-power of all the water carriage above described might be stated thus :—

	Mds.
Steamers	14,000
Barges	24,000
Canoes	40,000
Country boats	10,00,000
TOTAL	10,78,000 =39,000 tons.

This quantity could be carried for one trip. The number of trips that would or could be taken must of course depend upon circumstances.

12. There is a river system passing through Eastern Rungpore and joining the Brahmapootra near Kaleegunge; but as the distance to be traversed by land or by water would be so short, I do not deem it necessary to place any reserve water carriage there.

Circular letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Commissioners of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore, No. 3185 *S-R, dated Monghyr, May* 18, 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of a Minute which the Lieutenant-Governor has recorded on the subject of reserve water carriage for the famine districts during the rainy season (see above).

2. I am to request that you will ascertain and report for sanction the terms under which you can engage the required number of boats of the calibre stated in paragraph 9 of the Minute. The boats should not be hired for service and kept idle. All that the Government requires is that you should arrange with thoroughly trustworthy contractors, under sufficient penalties for non-performance, that the requisite number of boats should be forthcoming at fifteen days' notice at the points named. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the cost of retaining fees to be given for these boats need not be great; the fee should be in the shape of a monthly payment, and the arrangement should be terminable by Government at fifteen days' notice.

3. The Master Attendant will be requested to arrange, in consultation with yourself, for storing coal, as per margin, for the use of the reserve steam flotilla. If you can make contracts for delivering and storing and sheltering the coal on favorable terms on the spot, you can do so and make report to the Master Attendant. The coal must have adequate shelter, and a competent native store-keeper must be appointed to take care of it. One-half the required supply must be on the spot by the 1st July.

Revelgunge,	two months' coal for	2	small steamers.
Hajeepore,	"	" 2	"
Khagurrea,	"	" 4	"
Colgong,	"	" 3	"
Godagaree,	"	" 4	"
Rampore Beauleah,	"	" 3	"

4. If unhappily things turn out badly, and further supplies of grain have to be sent up during the rainy season, large steamers and flats will be employed to carry the grain from railway stations to the depôts on the north bank, whence the small steamers and country boats will ply. Storage sheds on properly selected spots, such as will sufficiently protect 30,000 maunds grain during the rains, must be made ready by the 1st July at each of the places of transhipment mentioned in the margin. At some of these places ample storage-room already exists.

Revelgunge.	Colgong.
Hajeepore.	Godagaree.
Khagurrea	Rampore Beauleah.

No. 79.

Note of points discussed at Monghyr with the Commissioner of Patna, dated May 18, 1874.

Point I.—Tirhoot grain allotment.

It was decided that Sub-division Hajeepore should have half a lakh of maunds, and that Tajpore Sub-division need not have more than the 21,000 maunds already stored within its limits.

The object was to get—

3½ lakhs for the Sudder,
½ lakh for Hajeepore,

without increasing the total allotment.

It had been intended that these quantities should come out of the 12,00,000 allotted to Seetamurree; but Seetamurree has already got over 10,00,000 either stored in or despatched to its golahs. It is practically very difficult to divert the carts when once they have started, as they take so many routes.

It was decided that the *Sudder* should have—

½ lakh already stored.
3 lakhs from Bunker Ghât.

Hajeepore should have—

5,000 already stored.
20,000 from Patna and Dinagepore golahs.
25,000 from Bunker.

Tajpore should have no more.

Seetamurree should have no more grain sent to it, but should transfer from its golahs 1¼ lakh to golahs in Durbhanga or Madhobunee. The Commissioner would decide the details of such transfer.

The 3½ lakhs to be got from Bunker for the Sudder and Hajeepore would thus be met—

2 lakhs are despatched to Seetamurree and diverted to Sudder.
1¼ lakh due to Durbhanga or Madhobunee from Bunker, but which will be made up by transfers from Seetamurree golahs instead of being despatched from Bunker.

3½ lakhs.

Point II.—Court of Wards' grain.

It was decided definitely that the 42,00,000 of maunds, Tirhoot assignment, was over and above, and exclusive of, the provision made by the Court of Wards.

Point III.—Mr. Hewitt's successor.

It was decided that Mr. Bayley might take any one out of his division, provided he did not take an officer on active famine duty; Messrs. Hodgkinson and Forbes, the two fittest men, could not be taken. The officer who might be selected would draw officiating allowance on the full salary under the rules. But he would understand that the salary and the arrangements generally were liable to revision when the Hutwa Maharajah came of age, when the famine was over, or when a permanent vacancy occurred in the post.

Point IV.—Durbhanga Railway passes.

It was explained that the Engineer-in-Chief would shortly receive definite orders from the Government of India to comply with the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions in respect to passes.

Point V.—Fodder from the North-Western Provinces.

It was stated that there was difficulty in getting the fodder up to the places where it was wanted, that the contractors still would not take it, and that the Chumparun cart contingent, which was to have carried the fodder, would now have to be fully employed in carrying grain from the railway onwards.

The Lieutenant-Governor decided that no more fodder (not actually purchased) should be sent down from the North-Western Provinces. Mr. Rivett-Carnac was to be instructed accordingly. The Chumparun carts might be employed on grain-lifting. The fodder would be carried up or eaten where the grain was all carried.

Point VI.—Maintenance of reserve carriage.

The whole of the reserve carriage, with its officers, would be kept up under Colonel MacGregor until the Government saw that the bhadoi (early autumn crop) was secure. The Commissioner would settle where the several detachments should be quartered, with due regard to fodder, water, and possible future carriage requirements. If it could be arranged, the cattle might be hired or lent out to ryots or planters for agricultural work. It had been said that many plough cattle had died or been knocked up in the carrying work.

If all things were safe in September 1874, then the carriage could be sold to the best advantage, either in Tirhoot, or at Patna, or at Benares, or at all three.

Point VII.—Maintenance of shed accommodation during rains.

It was decided by the Lieutenant-Governor that at Futwa Ghât and at Monghyr Ghât adequate shelter for grain must be provided against rainy season requirements, as these two places were the base of possible water carriage operations of the three river systems of the Patna Division described in the Lieutenant-Governor's Minute of the 15th May.

Sufficient shelter for grain must also be provided at Bazeedpore, and either at Dulsing or Nagurbustee. The Commissioner would decide, in communication with Colonel MacGregor and Major Stanton, which of these two latter places would be the best for carrying grain from Monghyr to the railway while the channel near Bazeedpore remained too shallow for navigation. If Mokameh was the best station for the supply of Bazeedpore by water, then permanent shelter would have to be put up at the Mokameh siding station.

The Commissioner of Patna will issue the necessary orders for having the required shelter complete before the end of June.

Point VIII.—Commissioner's Fortnightly Narrative.

As Mr. Hewitt had left the Commissioner's office and Mr. Bayley himself was on tour, the Lieutenant-Governor agreed to forego a Patna divisional narrative this fortnight.

Point IX —Destination of seed-grain.

The Commissioner said that he had not yet settled at what golahs in Madhobunee the seed grain should be stored. For the present the despatches should go on to Madhobunee town itself. The seed-grain despatches for Ramnuggur should go to Bunkur Ghât, whence Colonel MacGregor would arrange for transport to Ramnuggur.

No. 80.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., comparing actual facts with original estimates, dated May 18, 1874.

As it is manifestly of the first importance to note exactly from time to time the progress of affairs in the famine districts, to see how far the reality corresponds with or differs from the estimates, and to judge whether our preparations are proving adequate for the instant and for the coming needs, I present two statements showing for each of the distressed districts—

1*st.*—The number of persons actually receiving assistance from Government on or about the 1st May.

2*nd.*—The number estimated in my various Minutes to be receiving assistance on that date.

3rd.—The quantity of grain which might have been expected to be consumed by that date according to those estimates (that is, the amount provided in the allotments).

4th.—The quantity which actually has been expended.

5th.—The quantity actually stored up to that date.

6th.—The total amount allotted to each district for the whole period of the distress.

2. It will be seen then that on or about the 1st May 2,224,965 persons, or 2¼ millions, were receiving assistance of some kind from Government, and that the estimate showed 2,721,000 persons, or nearly 2¾ millions.

On the whole, the numbers seem to show that the estimate was a fairly safe one, sufficiently embracing the eventualities of the distress.

3. The actual result thus far coincides nearly with the estimate in the following districts:—

Tirhoot.	Dinagepore.
Bhaugulpore.	Rungpore.

The result exceeds the estimate in only two districts, namely—

Sarun.	Maunbhoom.

In Sarun the spring harvest reaped since the estimate was made has turned worse than the expectation of the agriculturist. In Maunbhoom the surplus of one part of the district has failed to be available for the other part by reason of exportation to other districts.

4. The result is considerably within the estimate in the following districts:—

Chumparun.	Bogra.
Purneah.	Gya.
Monghyr.	Shahabad.

In Chumparun, Purneah, Maldah, and Bogra benefit from the later rains has accrued since the framing of the estimate. In Chumparun a separate estimate was made for April, and this coincides closely with the results for the last week of that month. In Monghyr and Gya the harvesting of the Gangetic spring crops has afforded more aid than was expected to the poorest classes of the neighbouring tracts. In Shahabad the irrigation from the Soane Canal has happily exceeded expectation in averting distress.

5. Despite variations in the lesser districts, the estimate closely agrees with the result in the larger districts, *i.e.*, in the districts where the distress is the most important; consequently the aggregate result is conformable.

6. Again the advances made to private persons for importing grain amounts to 14 lakhs of rupees. Some of the grain thus imported has been disposed of by them. The exact quantity cannot now be stated. Those who purchase grain from these persons do indirectly receive assistance from Government; they would form some addition to the total as given in the statement.

7. The figures are taken for the 1st May, and they represent the state of things in the last week of April rather than the first week of May. Writing in the middle of May, I know that there has been an increase since the 1st May in almost all districts. If therefore the estimate be taken as meaning the average number for the month (which it does mean), then I have to state that in May the actual distress (measured by the number of persons receiving assistance from Government) is, on the whole, quite as great as my estimate. The worst month however (June) has yet to come; we have still to see whether the numbers amount up to the large estimate framed for that month (3,500,000 or 3½ millions of persons).

8. The persons receiving assistance are divided into the following classes:—

	Persons.
I.—Employed on relief works	1,238,575
II.—Receiving charitable or gratuitous relief	165,878
III.—Purchasing from Government store	529,252
IV.—Receiving advances directly or indirectly from Government	291,260
TOTAL .	2,224,965

Without offering too decided an opinion on an uncertain subject, I think it may be expected that the number of class I will not increase very considerably. Class II will, it is feared, increase much, but numerically it will never be so important as the other classes. Class III will, according to expectation of most officers on the spot, considerably increase. Class IV will, it is apprehended, go on increasing until September.

9. It will next be observed that the estimates provided for assistance from Government being rendered entirely in the shape of grain, and the allotments to each district were made accordingly. Up to the end of March, however, the local authorities were permitted to pay the relief laborers in cash, partly because it was thought desirable to husband the grain stores as much as possible in the presence of events of which no man can foresee the end. Since the middle of April, however, I have done all I can to ensure that the laborers be paid in grain, inasmuch as the stores have all arrived, and the sale of Government grain has been authorized in all places where the trade supplies are deficient. Up to the end of April, however, a comparatively small quantity of grain had been issued, namely, 13,687 tons out of the 56,985 tons estimated to be issued, leaving a balance to the good of 43,298 tons. We must, however, be prepared for a large increase of issues during May and subsequent months.

Thus we begin the month of May with 43,000 tons of grain *more* than was expected. And this circumstance strengthens our assurance that the preparations will prove adequate.

10. The amount stored to the end of April, 227,845 tons, out of the total allotment of 386,397 tons, may appear not so large as might have been hoped. But in this amount there are not included the various quantities which are on the transit carts close at hand and really available in case of need. The inland transport is in a forward state, as may be seen from the fact that up to the 10th May six-sevenths out of the whole allotment of the northern districts, that is, 300,000 tons out of 350,000, had been carted away from the north bank of the Ganges.

11. Assuming the estimated number of 3,500,000 persons in June to be fulfilled, I find that we have enough grain to feed the whole of that number till September when the first crop comes in, and also to feed a portion of that number till December when the second crop comes in.

The general conclusion which I draw from these two statements is that, although the affair is assuming the largest proportions which were specifically predicted regarding it, yet the existing state of our preparations is sufficient to include even those proportions, unless something as yet unforeseen should occur.

Memorandum by C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, showing the numbers on the hands of Government or consuming Government grain on May 1, 1874.

In reckoning the numbers on the hands of Government or consuming Government grain, the following principles have been followed:—

The numbers on gratuitous relief by the latest April returns, and the numbers on relief works by the latest April returns, have been taken. Sales of Government grain to laborers and to the public had been going on for about a fortnight up to the date of the latest April returns; in some few districts sales had been going on for more than a fortnight; in others for less. The sales, therefore, have been taken to represent a fortnight's supply. In all districts, except Bhaugulpore, it has been reckoned that half the purchasers of Government grain were relief laborers; but in Bhaugulpore, where places of sale were specially numerous on the works, all of the relief work-people have been reckoned as purchasers of Government grain. Advances of grain for the support of ryots had been made in only a very few districts. The rule is that advances should be made in fortnightly instalments, and so the total grain advances have been taken to represent 14 days' food for the families to which they may have been given. Money advances to enable zemindars to help their ryots are given once for all,

and not in instalments: it is reckoned that Rs. 15 will support at least one person through the famine months.

		Persons.
Tirhoot—		
Gratuitous relief		94,000
Relief works		540,000
Sale of grain—	Mds.	
Madhobunee	86,000	
Durbhanga	45,000	
Seetamurree	8,000	
Sudder	7,600	
TOTAL ...	1,46,600	
Of which say half is sold to the public and half to laborers on relief works; each person eats 10 seers in a fortnight. Half the above quantity supports		293,200
Grain advances, 50 maunds, at 10 seers a head		200
Money advances for helping ryots Rs. 1,00,000, at Rs. 15 per head		6,500
TOTAL ...		933,900
Estimated figure of distress for May		1,000,000
Sarun—		
Gratuitous relief		4,076
Relief works		175,575
Sales of grain		.....
Advances of grain		.....
Money advances to help ryots Rs. 3,00,000, at say Rs. 15 per head		20,000
TOTAL ...		199,651
Estimated figure of distress for May		150,000
Chumparun—		
Gratuitous relief		7,652
Relief works		129,720
Sales of grain 7,663 maunds, of which half is bought by relief laborers who are already shown need relief works, leaves 3,831 maunds, at 10 seers per head...		15,324
Advances of grain to ryots 16,605 maunds		66,420
Money advances Rs. 60,000, at Rs. 15 per head		4,000
TOTAL ...		223,116
Estimated figure of distress for May		316,000
April ditto ditto		237,000
Bhaugulpore—		
Gratuitous relief		4,340
Relief work		50,000
Sales of grain 31,493 maunds, which, at 10 seers per head for fortnight, gives over and above the total relief laborers ..		75,972
Advances of grain		.....
Money advances for ryots Rs. 40,000, at Rs. 15 per head ...		2,666
TOTAL ..		132,978
Estimated figure of distress for May		137,325
Purneah—		
Gratuitous relief		2,547
Relief works		39,149
Sales of grain 7,721 maunds, half of which gives food to (at 10 seers for fortnight)		15,442
Advances of grain 20,884 maunds		83,536
Money advances Rs. 32,000, at Rs. 15 per head		2,133
TOTAL ...		142,807
Estimated figure of distress for May		238,000

	Persons.
Dinagepore—	
Gratuitous relief	9,596
Relief works	100,162
Sales of grain 36,826 maunds; half of which, at 10 seers, supports	72,652
Advances of grain	.....
Money advances for ryots	.....
TOTAL ...	182,410
Estimated figure of distress for May	213,265
Rungpore—	
Gratuitous relief	2,979
Relief works	20,615
Sales of grain 16,175 maunds, half of which supports ...	32,350
Advances of grain to ryots	.....
TOTAL ...	55,944
Estimated figure of distress for May	63,700
Gya—	
Charitable relief	637
Relief works	1,429
Sales of grain	.....
Advances of money for ryots Rs. 8,800	587
TOTAL ...	2,653
Estimated figure of distress for May	46,650
Shahabad—	
Charitable relief	413
Relief works	5,842
Sales of grain 11 maunds	22
Advances for ryots, money or grain	.....
TOTAL .	6,277
Add Soane Canal work-people	38,783
TOTAL .	45,060
Estimated figure of distress for May	105,500
Monghyr—	
Charitable relief	3,661
Relief works	5,587
Sales of grain 7,646 maunds	15,292
Grain advances	.....
Money advances for ryots Rs. 11,000	750
TOTAL ...	25,290
Estimated figure of distress for May	172,000
Maldah—	
Gratuitous relief	1,495
Relief works	5,498
Sales of grain 797 maunds, equal to support of	1,594
Advances of grain to ryots 233 maunds	932
TOTAL ...	9,519
Estimated figure of distress for May	31,216

Rajshahye—

	Persons.
Gratuitous relief	1,558
Relief works	1,368
Northern Bengal Railway works	18,418
Sales of grain	.....
Advances of grain	.....
Money advances	...
TOTAL ...	21,344
Estimated figure of distress for May	74,000

Bogra—

Gratuitous relief	4,493
Relief works	32,601
Sales of grain 20 maunds	40
Advances of grain to ryots 876 maunds	3,504
TOTAL ...	40,638
Estimated figure of distress for May	112,500

Maunbhoom—

Gratuitous relief	5,776
Relief works	10,445
Sales of grain 382 maunds, half of which gives ...	764
Advances of grain to ryots 10,008 maunds	40,032
TOTAL ..	57,017

Hazareebaugh—

Gratuitous relief	not given.
Relief works	7,000
Sales of grain 128 maunds	256
TOTAL ..	7,256

Palamow—

Charitable relief	426
Relief works	13,610
TOTAL ...	14,036

Burdwan Division—

	Persons on	
	Charitable relief.	Relief works.
Bancoora	3,185	3,386
Beerbhoom	3,115	1,796
Hooghly	4,060	1,140
Burdwan	11,869	13,370
TOTAL ...	22,229	19,692
GRAND TOTAL ...	41,921	

Patna District—

	Persons.
Relief works	13,596
No persons on other forms of relief	...

Sonthal Pergunnahs—

Gratuitous relief	.....
Relief works	9,485
Sales of grain 3,172 maunds, equal to	6,344
TOTAL ...	15,829

The following figures give an abstract of the position up to the 1st May, or more exactly up to the 28th April, as some of the returns bring facts down only to the 21st and 25th April. It will be observed that the figures do not include persons on works executed by private persons from Government advances.

Divisions.	Districts.	Estimated figures of distress for May.	Total numbers supported by Government on or about 1st May.		
Patna ...	Patna	.....	13,596		
	Gya	46,650	2,653		
	Shahabad and Soane Canal ...	105,500	45,060		
	Tirhoot ..	1,000,000	933,000		
	Sarun	150,000	199,651		
	Chumparun	316,000	223,116	1,618,150	1,417,976
Bhaugulpore ...	Bhaugulpore	137,325	132,978		
	Monghyr	172,000	25,290		
	Purneah	238,000	142,807		
	Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	.....	15,829	547,325	316,904
Rajshahye ...	Dinagepore	213,265	182,410		
	Rungpore	63,700	55,944		
	Maldah	31,216	9,519		
	Bogra ...	112,500	40,638		
	Rajshahye, with Northern Bengal Railway.	74,000	21,344	494,681	309,855
Burdwan Division ...	.....	.. .	41,921		
Chota Nagpore Division	.....	. .	78,309	.	120,230
	Grand Total ...	.....	. .	2,660,156	2,164,965
	Total on the hands of, or fed by, Government on or about 1st May ..				2,164,965
	Add estimated number on tuccavee works				60,000
	Total				2,224,965

Comparison between Estimated and Actual Expenditure of Government Grain up to the last week in April.

Districts.	Amount of grain originally allotted to each district for the whole period of distress.	Amount of grain stored up to the last week in April.	Number of people estimated to require aid from Government up to the end of April	Quantity of grain provided in the allotment for this number of people up to the end of April.	Amount of grain actually expended up to the last week in April.	Remarks
	Mds.	Mds.	Persons.	Mds.	Mds.	
Gya	2,20,000*	1,45,269	25,000	14,000	.	* The original allotments for the Gya, Shahabad and Monghyr Districts are entered in Column 2. Since the result and effect of the spring harvests became known, the Lieutenant-Governor has been able to reduce by 30 to 40 per cent. the allotments for these districts.
Shahabad and Soane Canal	3,17,000*	1,86,582	80,000	45,000	11	
Tirhoot	42,00,000	16,74,415	750,000	4,30,000	1,61,706	
Sarun	5,30,000	4,82,732	290,000	65,000	22	
Chumparun	10,00,000	7,59,565	474,000	2,66,000	26,302	
Monghyr	3,78,000*	1,79,904	88,000	48,000	10,724	
Bhaugulpore	7,30,000	6,62,034	206,000	1,15,000	41,906	
Purneah	6,50,000	4,90,437	310,000	1,85,000	54,613	
Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	1,35,000	92,634	30,000	17,000	3,172	
Dinagepore ...	12,00,000	9,12,829	214,000	1,20,000	38,078	
Maldah ..	1,50,000	83,816	310,000	18,000	3,596	
Rajshahye and Northern Bengal Railway	2,00,000	2,12,429	50,000	28,000	1,900	
Rungpore ..	3,00,000	1,34,580	63,000	35,000	16,185	
Bogra ...	2,40,000	75,436	112,000	64,000	387	
Chota Nagpore Division ..	2,60,000	57,343	.	...	11,716	
Grand Total ..	1,05,10,000 mds. =386,397 tons	61,97,425 mds. =227,845 tons	2,721,000 ..	15,50,000 mds =56,985 tons.	3,71,318 mds. =13,687 tons	

Note.—The figures in Column 4 show the total number of persons expected to require aid during February, March, and April. Then in the case of Tirhoot, the estimated number of distressed persons was 250,000 during March and 500,000 during April. The total of these two figures is, therefore, entered in Column 4.

No. 81.

Memorandum by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on relief operations in the Durbhanga, Madhobunee, and Seetamurree Sub-divisions of the Tirhoot District, dated May 21, 1874.

Having conferred carefully with Mr. Metcalfe, Additional Commissioner of North-Eastern Tirhoot (which comprises the most important tracts of the famine country) regarding relief operations in the Durbhanga, Madhobunee, and Seetamurree Sub-divisions, I have to record as follows on the principal points :—

Sale of grain to the public.—Mr. Metcalfe affirms that a serious deficiency of food-grains, especially rice, is apprehended, which cannot for the present be supplied by local trade. He supports this opinion by a variety of facts as observed by himself. Sales are already going on in all the Madhobunee Sub-divisions and in parts of the Durbhanga and Seetamurree Sub-divisions. He wishes to extend them over the remainder of the Durbhanga and Seetamurree Sub-divisions. I authorise this, excepting, however, the town of Rowsura on the Gunduck in the south part of the Durbhanga Sub-division.

Piece-work and daily wages.—Piece-work has been introduced fairly well in the Madhobunee and Seetamurree Sub-divisions, but only partially in the Durbhanga Sub-division. I am not quite satisfied with the progress made in Durbhanga. Mr. Metcalfe explains that the failure is in the circles round Hatee (to the east) under Mr. Aikman. I beg that Mr. Metcalfe will personally see that something more is immediately done in that quarter.

Mr. Metcalfe reports that the rate of Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 4 for 1,000 cubic feet, or 6 annas per 100 cubic feet, is proving too high for the village tank-works (as especially contradistinguished from the Public Works' roads) in these parts, where the laborers are in better case and more able to undergo exertion. He would lower it from 15 to 20 per cent. He reports that now that the infirm and feeble have been brought under charitable relief, and the able-bodied people are employed on tanks almost at their doors, this much of reduction will be safely feasible. He believes that, as the people now are on these tanks, a family can and does execute 100 cubic feet a day, the man digging and the wife and children carrying away the earth. This doubtless must be the case with some families, comparatively skilful and industrious, as Mr. Metcalfe reports the fact. But I fear that very many families could not do as much as 100 cubic feet, and that very many again would do much less, while some specially skilled might, on the other hand, do even more.

After carefully reconsidering the matter with a view to preventing the rate from being unduly high, I decide to try a reduction as he proposes, especially as the condition and ability of the people on the works are improving by reason of their having had sufficient nourishment since they came under relief.

We are now extending the system of payments in kind, and I would take the opportunity of authorising Mr. Metcalfe to offer 4 seers of cleaned rice for 100 cubic feet, which, at the Government rate of 12 seers the rupee, is equal to 5 annas, on the condition that he personally takes such precautions as may prevent the people leaving the works, or may ensure their being cared for if they do.

Further, Mr. Metcalfe desires to try a rate of 3½ seers per 100 cubic feet in some selected tanks and places. This also I authorise him to try on the same condition as that above set forth. Mr. Metcalfe is clear that it would not be safe to go below these grain rates of 4 seers and 3½ seers per 100 cubic feet.

It does not follow that these two rates, 4 seers and 3½ seers, are to be offered everywhere, but only in such places as Mr. Metcalfe may select. I trust to his judgment, after the experience gained at the last alteration of system, to introduce the present attempt at improvement cautiously, so that he may really carry his point with the people. I desire these rates may be tried in such parts of the Madhobunee Sub-division where the local authorities think that the modification can be safely tried.

Payment of relief labor in grain.—I find that this is not done perfectly, though progress has been made. It is in the Hatee Circle that progress is most defective. I again beg Mr. Metcalfe's attention to this. I am glad to

see that something has been done in the Madhobunee Sub-division to actually distribute grain in payment. I am disappointed at finding that less has been done in this respct in the Durbhanga Sub-division.

Charitable relief.—This seems to have been well undertaken everywhere; the cases and objects having been diligently searched out village by village and house by house.

Relief of high-caste people and those who cannot work, manufacturers and others.—Grain has been sent to some villages for this purpose. I again beg Mr. Metcalfe's immediate attention to this matter, as the people are becoming more and more pinched. Their case is specially contemplated in a recent circular as a fit object of the bounty of the subscribers to the charitable funds.

Advances to ryots.—Some have been made in money, but few or none in grain. Mr. Metcalfe reports that there is some demand for money advances, but not for grain. I have told him, however, that we do not care to advance except in grain.

Lastly, I have impressed on Mr. Metcalfe generally the necessity of limiting cash disbursements from the treasury; of making full use of the grain supplies for the purposes contemplated by Government; of preventing to the utmost waste and abuses; of ensuring (so far as possible) that relief reaches the right persons and no others; and is afforded fully up to the necessity of the people, but in no wise beyond it.

No. 82.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on reserve transport carriage, dated Barrh, May 23, 1874.

Colonel Macgregor, chief of our Transport Department in Tirhoot, having reported to me the apparent probability of the Alliance Company's stopping work, I took occasion of my visit to Chumpta Ghât near Barrh to consult him on the subject. I find that up to date the Company have not signified any intention of stopping work, though they are working very short, carrying below 3,000 and 4,000 maunds a day, and having not more than 2,300 carts in the field.

2. I fear that the utmost pressure which we can put upon the Company for more work will prove ineffectual. As regards real result, they have carried a good quantity, some 10 lakhs of maunds, or nearly 40,000 tons, for Eastern Tirhoot; and though it is now certain that they will leave a considerable part of their engagement unfulfilled, we must needs accept what they have done, and the remainder which remains to be done we must do by means of our reserve carriage. Indeed, we have for some time past been supplementing the Company's work by bringing a part of our reserve carriage into the field.

3. It will be found that we possess ample resources of our own within the field of the Company's operation, which render us quite independent of the work of the Company. I find that the portions of the Government reserves thus available may be summarized as below—

Six detachments of organised reserve carts purchased by Government, each 250 strong, in all	1,500
Carts hired from the Western Tirhoot Company . .	2,000
„ by Government from the Sarun District .	850
TOTAL .	4,350
Pack-bullocks purchased by Government	900
Pack-bullocks obtained from the North-Western Provinces, through Neel Comul, contractor .	1,300
TOTAL	2,200
One division of pack-ponies purchased by Government	720
Eight divisions of ponies, each 450 strong, purchased by Government	3,840
TOTAL ...	4,560
Camels hired through Neel Comul	1,360

4. The following quantities can be carried in one trip by these various means:—

	Mds.
Carts 4,350	65,250
Pack-bullocks 2,200	6,600
Ponies 4,560	6,840
Camels 1,360	6,800
TOTAL ...	85,490, or 3,143 tons.

5. The time remaining before the rains is short, and the quantity yet to be carried within the field occupied by the Alliance Company is considerable (about 4,50,000 maunds, or 16,544 tons); still, I think, the resources above described should fully suffice, as the trips and distances will be short. If, however, at any moment there should be doubt on this point, then we have yet other resources and other portions of Government reserve which can be immediately brought into action.

No. 83.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, regarding distress in the Julpigoree District of the Cooch Behar Division, dated Monghyr, May 28, 1874.

Some distress having recently broken out in the Julpigoree District in the Cooch Behar Division, I desire to record briefly what has been done.

2. The territory is divided into two parts, east and west, by the River Teesta. On the east side the Teesta is the state of Cooch Behar and the Buxa Dooars incorporated in the Julpigoree District. On the west side of the river is the remainder of Julpigoree District.

3. Originally the Julpigoree District, with a population of 418,665 souls, was not reckoned among the distressed districts at all. It was known to have had a 10-anna yield of the rice crop, its main staple—its supplies of grain were such that up to nearly the end of April it was exporting considerably to he nearest corners of the Purneah and Dinagepore Districts. The state of ooch Behar has had a good rice harvest, and has exported grain to the nearest portions of the Dinagepore and Rungpore Districts. In the Dooars, also, there was not any failure of crops.

4. To this satisfactory description there has, however, always been one exception. In the southern corner of the Julpigoree District there is a tract known by the name of *Boda*, which, though British territory, is the private estate of the Cooch Behar Rajah. This tract adjoins some of the distressed portions of the Purneah District (Kishengunge) and some distressed parts of the Dinagepore District (Raneeshonkol). This tract had a very poor rice crop, and sometime ago the Cooch Behar State, under British management, arranged to store grain there. Whatever grain has been purchased by the state of Cooch Behar has been not for Cooch Behar itself but for the Boda zemindaree in Julpigoree.

5. Up to the middle of May, however, the local authorities appeared confident that in the main part of the Julpigoree District distress would not occur, though there was anxiety from time to time about the exportation of grain from the district, chiefly in the direction of the Purneah District, and certainly there was nothing in the outturn of the harvests to create, or even to justify, such an apprehension.

6. On the 17th May, however, and on subsequent dates, the Commissioner has sent reports of prices suddenly rising to famine rates; of a tendency to panic in the grain markets; of a growing fear of short supply; and of several acts here and there of violence by villagers and others against the possessors of stocks. It certainly seemed that there must still be some stocks in the district, but that the possessors would not bring it out for sale, preferring to hold it in the expectation that things might become worse. The prevalence of any such impression was calculated to aggravate distress.

7. I immediately directed the Commissioner to make use of the stocks already stored in Boda (as just described) for the assistance of the district generally; to take the grain in the nearest grain depôts belonging to the Northern Bengal State Railway; to offer advances in cash to local traders to bring up rice from the large Government grain depôt at Kaleegunge on the banks of the Brahmapootra, whither our stores are sent by steamers; and to notify to those who might be under any influence of panic that Government stores would soon arrive, that things were not likely to grow worse, and that therefore the holders of grain need not hesitate to bring it out for sale. In order to make good the promise that Government supplies would arrive, I ordered 50,000 maunds (nearly 2,000 tons) of grain to be immediately sent by carts from the Kissengunge depôts (in the north of the Purneah District), whereby succour would reach Julpigoree from the south-west, and I have since heard of the despatch of this quantity with a promptitude creditable to the Purneah officers. I also ordered 40,000 maunds (1,500 tons) to be sent by the Teesta River route from the south-east. I believe that the supplies on the spot will last quite well till the succour arrives from without.

8. I have appointed additional officers to join at Julpigoree immediately both for relief and for public works. Meanwhile the necessary relief works have been opened by the Commissioner instantly on the first symptom of trouble.

The supply of grain in the Purneah District generally is ample for all present needs. But the Kissengunge depôt must be immediately replenished, as the distress about there has become worse (apparently from the trouble in Julpigoree, as one neighbourhood acts and re-acts on the other). This can be done easily from the other depôts of the district, and the opportunity will be taken of testing the value of the reserve of pack-ponies retained in that district for emergent service anywhere.

I think we may rely on the promptitude and thoughtfulness of the Commissioner of Cooch Behar, Sir William Herschel.

No. 84.

Memorandum by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the working of the relief measures in the Hyaghât Relief Circle, dated May 31, 1874.

Having met Mr. Francis (C. S.), circle officer of Hyaghât, and gone through with him the affairs of that circle, I have to record the following note.

The population of the circle amounts to about 120,000 souls, a portion of whom, say 30,000, had some fair harvest and are but slightly distressed; the remainder, or 90,000, having lost nearly all their crops, are being now much distressed.

I find that the group system is complete; 400 villages are divided into 24 groups; every group has its two officials and its granary; the circle officer has sent grain to every village besides, and in some villages he has laid in a supply for the rains. This is done through the petty landholders, the jeyt ryots, and the putwarees.

There are five large grain depôts; 1,00,000 maunds of Government grain have been received in the circle, of which 30,000 have been expended (of which again 15,000 maunds have been sold to relief laborers and to the public, and 15,000 distributed gratuitously), 70,000 remaining in store.

Some 12,400 persons are on charitable relief, 10,000 employed on tanks and on village works, and about 12,000 on public works roads; in all 22,000 on relief works. Mr. Francis says that all the relief laborers are on piece-work on the tanks. Those on the roads are mostly on piece-work, but a certain portion are on daily wages; these latter are, however, going to be discharged and transferred to village works, where they will come on piece-work. There are 58 village tanks.

Mr. Francis thinks that the rate of 6 annas for 100 cubic feet is too liberal, and he is going to avail himself of the sanction I gave to Mr. Metcalfe to adopt a grain rate of payment, which shall reduce this below 5 annas. If after this some of the relief laborers shall leave the works, it can only be that

they have saved something from their earnings which enables them to support themselves for a time. Mr. Francis should, however, be careful that no really necessitous persons leave the works under any misapprehension.

Although that part of the population which resorts to relief works has been thoroughly relieved, so much so that in justice to the labor market we may venture on a slight reduction in the rate of remuneration, still the population generally are short of food-supply. Mr. Francis is confident that there is no rice, absolutely none, in the market, and no chance of any being brought at present by the trade; other grains in some quantity there may be, but no rice. Also there is a deficiency of rice-seed.

He is now selling to relief laborers and to the public about 700 maunds a day through the trade, consisting of 45 bunniahs and some 10 salaried bunniahs. But he believes that the people are anxious to buy more and really need it.

I therefore would authorise him to increase his sales, if he sees necessity, to 1,000 maunds a day (including sales to public and to relief laborers) till the 1st July, after which date he should report especially to the Commissioner and reconsider the position.

I find that Mr. Francis has gone carefully into the question of advances to ryots village by village, and has granted grain in this way to 6,000 ryots, whereby assistance is given, including families, to 30,000 persons.

On questioning Mr. Francis regarding provision for Brahmins, he says that most of them are provided for by the advances to cultivators. I beg, however, that he will prepare a separate list of Brahmins, Rajputs, and others who may be fit recipients of charity.

I am glad to learn that many women who cannot work out of doors have light work, such as cotton-spinning.

Also I learn that he has granted some money advances for the purchase of seed.

I regret to hear but an indifferent account from Mr. Francis of the conduct of zemindars in his circle as yet. I beg that he will use every effort to induce them to improve.

Taking the number on relief works, and charitable relief, and under advances, in all about 62,000, besides which there must be some few thousands of purchasers of Government grain, the proportion receiving assistance out of the severely distressed population stated in this note must be full 75 per cent., if deduction be made for that portion of the population which is not severely distressed.

Having carefully questioned Mr. Francis on all parts of his work, I have to express my high satisfaction at the knowledge he evinces of the principles and orders laid down by Government, and his intelligent appreciation of their principles.

No. 85.

Review of the state of affairs in the Singhea Relief Circle by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated June 1, 1874.

Having visited the Singheea Circle under Baboo Ramakoy Chatterjee, I make the following remarks:—

The circle has about 85 villages, with a population of 65,000, severely distressed, having been indeed one of the worst parts of the country, but now reported to be improving.

The division of villages into groups, each group with its officials and its granaries, is efficient; also the grain is being properly distributed among the group granaries.

The list of recipients of charitable relief has been fully prepared village by village. The number (12,000) is very large. It comprises many high caste people, women, and the like.

Some of the last-named people, however, prefer to pay just something, disliking to be classed among the recipients of charitable relief. Some persons of the weaving class have received materials from the charitable fund wherewith to make cloth, and so earn some living. Brahmins will not work on

tanks, but will willingly serve as mates and sub-overseers and the like. I do not see that I have any further instructions to give on this point.

The Baboo has got about 6,000 persons on piece-work at village tanks; for these grain is issued. The Public Works officer had also got about 6,000 persons on roads; to these payments have been still made in cash, and daily wages seem still to have been paid through some misapprehension in the Public Works Department, which will immediately be inquired into.

Sales both to the public and to relief laborers are going on; 37 bunniahs or dealers are employed in this way; sales to the public, however, seem to me to be less than might be expected, seeing that the Baboo declares that there is absolutely no rice in the circle save the Government rice. I beg the Baboo's attention to this.

Up to date between 26,000 maunds only of rice have been issued, 38,000 maunds remaining in store and 36,000 yet got to be stored.

A beginning has been made in making advances to ryots and in getting petty landed proprietors to stand security.

About 1,000 ryots have been thus assisted, representing some 5,000 persons including families. Further attention should be given to this.

Some Rs. 10,000 have been advanced to ryots wherewith to purchase seed-grain. The numbers receiving assistance would appear to be—

12,000	Charitable relief.
12,000	Relief works.
5,000	Under advances.
29,000	

besides which there must be a considerable number of purchasers at sales. The total would come to about 50 per cent. of the total population, which, though large, is not *so* large as the percentage we see in some other circles. Apparently it must be that the Baboo has not developed sales to the public so much as he might. He is confident that the local distress is all relieved, though he says that there are persons who went to the harvesting on the Gangetic tracts, and are now returning in bad plight. He was in the Orissa famine, and he affirms it to be his opinion that without Government aid the case in this circle must have been as bad as in any part of Orissa.

No. 86.

Notes of a conversation with Baboo Ramakoy Chatterjee, Circle Officer of Singheea, dated June 1, 1874.

Circle contains 85 villages, including five of the larger tolahs separately numbered. Population about 60,000; eight groups. Group officers are men of the neighbourhood on Rs. 15 a month. The villages are owned mainly by petty maliks, and the jeyt ryots are small men. The circle is almost wholly a rice tract. There are scarcely any supplies in the bazaars, except a little gram. There are now 9,000 people on charitable relief, 5,000 on circle works, and 6,000 on Public Works Department roads, &c. The Baboo did not begin selling or expending his grain freely until the beginning of May. He has now spent—

	Mds.
In sales to public	10,000
„ charitable relief	9,000
„ advances	1,000
„ payments to laborers	6,000
TOTAL	26,000

The sales to the public are now dull, and the Baboo says that our grain payments to laborers, and our advances to ryots, are operating to spread the grain over the country, and make the demand for sales less. He anticipates that the first good rainfall will induce the mahajuns to advance money, and then numbers of purchasers will come to the Government grain shops. The numbers on charitable relief are large and are increasing; day by day people who have been south of the Ganges to work at rubbee-cutting, come back to

their villages in reduced condition, and are brought on the charitable relief lists. The Baboo has left half a maund or so of grain in the hands of the chief men of each village for the relief (subject to accounting) of casuals of this kind. The Baboo has visited every village in his circle three times or oftener; he can safely say that every resident who requires relief gets it. Occasionally people who travel from place to place may turn up in a reduced condition. But the Baboo is confident that every jeyt ryot in the circle knows him, and tells him when any new case of distress occurs.

The number of persons on relief works is much less than it was at first. The reason is, that at first thousands of people from other circles were on the Singheea works. Now works have been started near the homes of everybody, and so the foreigners employed in Singheea have gone off to the works near their houses. Cash payments on circle works have entirely ceased, and 4 seers of grain are paid per 100 cubic feet of earth-work. No cash is paid. But on the Public Works roads and tanks, cash payments were made last week, though the Baboo believes that grain payments were to begin to-day (1st June).

The Baboo has arranged, he considers, very completely for distributing grain, from the central to minor golahs. He expects to be quite ready with supplies of grain in all groups, and at most of the principal villages, by the time the rains set in.

The Baboo says his preparations for advancing grain to ryots are well forward, and the grain will be given out as soon as the bonds, &c., are signed. The petty landowners (maliks) are coming forward to give security for their ryots, though they do not evince much alacrity in so doing.

The Baboo is himself, and says the people are becoming, anxious about the early autumn (bhadoi) crops. He thinks that owing to the absence of May rains the bhadoi can hardly be a full crop, though on this point there can be no absolute certainty until the middle of June. The people, however, are very anxious.

In regard to seed-grain for this crop, the Baboo has not much anxiety. He believes every ryot, even very petty men who are in receipt of charitable relief, have their small supply of seed-grain. If unhappily this next crop were also to fail, then the seed-grain difficulty would be very grave indeed.

The Baboo has already given charitable relief to some 600 families of Brahmins and Rajpoots, whose position and caste prevented them coming on the works.

The Baboo has relieved many impoverished families of middle class people, by selling them grain below the prescribed rate. People by paying one rupee a maund for the rice maintain their self-respect, and avoid becoming mere beggars. He cited the case of a Brahmin widow with two children, all of whom were in a reduced condition. The mother entirely declined to take relief without paying for it. She declined to take rice at the price of 4 annas a maund when the Baboo suggested that price, saying, "other people pay one rupee a maund and I will do so too." And accordingly she pawned a silver armlet she had, and paid one rupee per maund for the rice she received.

The people hardly express any feeling of gratitude to Government. Some really believe that Government is feeding the people with the view of eventually deporting them to Assam and Cachar. All believe they will be rescued from starvation, but they evince no very lively gratitude. But he himself believes that had Government done nothing to help the people, there would have been, in the Singheea country, more mortality than there was in Orissa. The Baboo was himself in Orissa through the whole famine.

No. 87.

Note on the sale of Government grain at Rowsura, authorised by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated June 2, 1874.

On visiting Rowsura, one of the largest marts in South Tirhoot, I summoned the principal grain-dealers, and asked them whether there was any rice in their market, and whether they could or would import any. They distinctly

said not, alleging as a reason that the prices in other districts were so high as to render it unprofitable to import. Other grains, wheat, gram, and some coarse grains might be found in the market. There were no doubt private stores of rice, but none produced for sale. As to importing rice when the rivers should rise during the rains, they would make no promise.

I asked them whether there was a great need of rice at Rowsura, and whether it would be desirable to sell Government grain. They answered both these questions in the affirmative. Indeed they seemed to me to strongly recommend that such sales should be commenced as constituting a boon to the people of their town. The only suggestion they had to make was that the grain should be sold somewhat cheaper than 12 seers for the rupee (cleaned rice retail rate). This of course would be out of the question.

Hitherto I have declined to authorise the sale of rice at Rowsura, lest it should interfere with trade; but as this is not the case, and as the people appear to want it, I now agree.

Copy forwarded to the Additional Commissioner, Durbhanga, with request that sales of Government grain should be authorised at Rowsura, and with remark that the Municipal Secretary was ready to prepare lists of indigent middle class families in need of relief under clause (*d*).

No. 88.

Note by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the condition and prospect of affairs in the Hattee Relief Sub-division, dated June 2, 1874.

Having visited the Hattee relief division, I desire to record the following observations. It is to be borne in mind that Hattee comprises the eastern half of the Durbhanga sub-division. The total population of the circles under Hattee amounts to 450,000 souls. And the whole Hattee tract is classed among the most distressed tracts in all the country.

I proceeded thither because there was reason to fear that the last remaining portions of the Government grain might be late in reaching the depôts, so as to be stored before the beginning of the rains.

That the local grain markets might become almost so wholly deficient in rice that the troubles of the people would be thereby aggravated.

That the continued absence of rain throughout May might considerably affect the prospect of the next crop, thereby rendering necessary some reconsideration of the allotment of Government grain.

Local enquiry, however, into each of the three points seems to show that the position of affairs is sufficiently safe, and that no additional measures are called for.

In the first place, the allotment of Government grain, 7⅓ lakhs of maunds, or nearly 30,000 tons, was expected to suffice to feed two-thirds of the population for five months. Out of this amount 5⅓ lakhs of maunds, or 22,000 tons, had actually reached the depôts by the 1st of June, if not actually returned as stored, and the remainder is certainly on its way. On the 1st of June the roadway from Dalsing Serai, the delivery station of the Durbhanga State Railway, to Hattee (nearly 40 miles) was more or less covered with convoys of grain carried by carts, pack-bullocks, mules, ponies, buffaloes, and camels. A large portion of the reserve carriage from the North-Western Provinces was being engaged on this urgent service, and the transit officers were confident that the main work would be done in time.

There remains the internal distribution of grain between the main depôts, 12 in number, and the lesser depôts, of which there are 76. At all these places Government grain is being sold; and besides these places of sale there are from 150 to 200 private dealers who purchase and retail Government grain to the public.

In the second place, it is ascertained approximately, that up to the 1st of June one lakh of maunds, 3,700 tons, of Government rice, and no more, had been expended, which is comparatively a small quantity. The sub-divisional officer explains that he had had some difficulty in supplying the relief laborers with grain until past the middle of May; that he had feared to meet freely the public demand for the sale of the rice, until the arrival of the supplies in

sufficient quantities at the depôts could be secured. Thus he regards the issue of grain during the greater part of May as having been somewhat less than it should have been in regard to the mitigation of distress. But he and his officers affirm that there is an utter deficiency of rice in the local markets; that there is almost none in fact save the Government rice; that there probably are private stocks, but that they are not brought to market; that the local traders will bring nothing till the rains have filled the navigable streams, which can hardly be for some time yet; that the people accustomed to eat rice have been largely subsisting on coarse grain which must be approaching exhaustion; that distress is kept under, but with difficulty. He has, therefore, during the latter half of May, been availing himself more and more of the various orders of Government designed to supply the necessitous people with rice, namely—

1*st*.—Distribution of rice to those on the lists for charitable relief.

2*nd*.—Payment of relief laborers in kind.

3*rd*.—Sale of rice to the public through local traders.

4*th*.—Advances to distressed ryots and cultivators.

Under the first two heads, the consumption of grain has not increased; indeed, it has rather become restricted. But under the last two heads, sale and advances, the demand has grown rapidly and is still growing. During the second week of May 14,000 maunds were expended; in the fourth week of May 25,000 were expended; during the 1st (the current) week of June the sub-divisional officer expects that 40,000 maunds will be expended. Whether the demand will continue at the rate during the whole of June is of course doubtful, depending, as it does, on coming of the rains.

If the rains come very favorably then it might decrease; if they hold off (as they have held off as yet unfavorably) it might increase.

At 40,000 maunds a week the expenditure in grain would be 1,60,000 maunds, making with the 1,00,000 to end of May, 2,60,000. It does not seem probable at present that the total will exceed 2½ lakhs of maunds by the end of June, and it may prove less. This would leave 4,80,000 maunds in hand by the 1st July.

If 1,60,000 maunds were to be expended in June, that quantity at three-fourths of a seer per head, per diem, would feed 290,000 persons, or 70 per cent. of the population; and it is not likely that more than this number could need assistance even during the worst month. In this case, however, there would still remain 4,70,000 maunds, or grain enough for three months' supply of what would probably be the maximum number, 290,000, of persons requiring assistance. But inasmuch as some good grains at the worst are to be looked for in July, and some of the coarser grains will, under ordinary circumstances, be gathered in September, it is very improbable that the maximum number would continue after June, and very probable that the number will decrease after August.

From this point of view, then, the supply would appear to be sufficient for safety till the December crop comes in. It is to be remembered that in this particular part of the country there is no autumnal crop of rice. The only autumnal crop is of coarse grains, which are only supplementary to the staple food of the people.

In the third place there has been long-continued drought to the beginning of June, relieved only by one shower at the end of April. In ordinary years showers during the spring and summer are looked for: this year they have not come, consequently (with the exception of one tract, Hussunpore, in the south-east corner) most of the rice lands have remained unploughed, and all have remained unsown. This is serious in respect to the low-lying lands. It is considered that if the rice has not appeared above the ground by the end of May, it cannot mature at all. When the floods come in the latter part of June these lands will be submerged, and unless the rice plants can keep their heads above water they are lost. It is, therefore, said that already the agriculturists have given up this part of the rice crop as lost; and it forms about half of the whole. If the rains come now they will serve only for the up-lying lands; consequently some authorities already say that the next winter rice harvest in Hattee cannot have more than an 8-anna yield. We may still hope that some turn in the season may avert such a degree of loss; but the contingency is one that must be considered.

It is computed that in ordinary years Hattee exports half its winter rice crop; presumably, therefore, half the crop suffices for the sustenance of the people. If that be so then, inasmuch as under no circumstances is a fresh supply to come in till December, and as we probably have enough Government rice to sustain till then all those who would require aid from us, our position might, perhaps, be regarded as secure even with the degree of loss now apprehended.

Notwithstanding this, however, the prospect of the loss of the low-land portion of the rice crop must aggravate distress, even though the rest of the rice crop be good, and although the coarse grains are gathered intermediately, it will cause that distrust of the future, that dread of the course of the seasons, which always cause the possessors of private stocks to keep them in hand and to withhold them from sale in market. Therefore, we may have to meet a demand somewhat greater (it can hardly be very much greater) than that which we now anticipate. If such demand were to arise, we cannot import any more by land carriage. Whatever was practicable in that way has been done, and there would be nothing for it but to employ water-carriage, and this plan would be quite practicable if the streams and rivers shall fill during the rains. Grain could be brought by small boats during the height of the rains into the very heart of the Hattee country. Already a reserve of small boats and steamers has been provided, and this could be immediately strengthened if necessary.

I therefore conclude that although the position of Hattee is not free from anxiety, and though there is need of watchfulness, yet no additional precaution is needed at the present moment.

No. 89.

Note by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the Gunda Relief Circle, dated June 3, 1874.

On questioning Mr. Cornish, of the Gunda circle, I was glad to find that he seems to be aware of, and to have in hand, all or nearly all the matters prescribed by Government.

But there is one circumstance calling for remark, which is this. The numbers on relief works and on charitable relief now amount to about 12,000. The ryots (with their families) receiving advances may amount to 2,000, and there will be some number of purchasers from the Government stores. Altogether the number receiving assistance from Government may be something between 15,000 and 20,000, the population of the circles may (as I understand) be taken at 70,000. If that be so, then the proportion of persons receiving assistance to the population will be much less in this circle than in the average of the circles in either the Durbhanga or the Hattee relief sub-divisions.

Up to date 15,000 maunds have been expended out of an allotment of 1,20,000 maunds, and the expenditure of grain does not seem likely to exceed 15,000 a month. In that point of view it might appear that this circle might spare some of its grain if any neighbouring circle should be short. It is, however, to be remembered that, except the coarse grains in small quantities in September, there will be probably hardly any food-supplies in this circle, but the Government grain, until November or December next.

No. 90.

Note by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the Lehra Circle, dated Buheyra, June 3, 1874.

On questioning Mr. Guise, Assistant Superintendent of the Lehra circle, I was glad to find that he evinced a good understanding of the work as regards storage of grain in villages, the preparation of lists of persons on charitable relief, the taking care of distressed persons of the higher castes, the making advances to ryots on the security of the zemindars, the payment in kind to relief laborers, and the enforcement of piece-work.

But from his report I should infer that the circle is weak in office establishment, in group officers, and in golahdars. Out of seven group officers Mr. Guise thinks that there is not one really competent man; the golahdar at the circle head-quarters is reported inefficient, and there does not seem to be any competent English writer or clerk. These defects should be immediately rectified. I obtained the services of moonserims from the North-Western Provinces, and of duffadars from the army, in order to strengthen the group establishments. Why have none of these useful men been appointed to this circle?

No. 91.

Note by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K. C. S. I., on the allotments, expenditure, and stores of Government grain in the relief sub-divisions under the Additional Commissioner of Patna, on June 4, 1874.

Having considered the grain supplies of that portion of the Tirhoot District in which the relief operations are supervised by the Additional Commissioner, Mr. Metcalfe, I have to record the following orders. In this important jurisdiction there are comprised the following relief sub-divisions:—

Hattee.	Madhobunee.
Narya.	Seetamurree.
Durbhanga.	Poopree.

I have very recently, when travelling in that district, conferred carefully with the officers in each of these sub-divisions.

2. By my note of the 2nd June, (see p. 364) it was shewn that in the Hattee Relief Sub-division, no further supplies need be thought of at present beyond the allotment already made. Up to 1st of June 1,00,000 maunds are reported expended out of an allotment of 8 lakhs; and 1½ lakhs are estimated to be expended in June.

3. In the Narya sub-division, the allotment amounts to 6½ lakhs of maunds, out of which only one lakh has been expended up to 1st of June. The expenditure is now, however, very rapidly increasing, as the grain has arrived. The highest estimates which I have seen shews an expenditure of 2,07,000 maunds during June; but this includes a very large amount for payment to laborers and for sales to the public. It is not probable that these will be sustained during July and August. If the above estimate be correct, nearly half will have been expended by the 1st July, in which case the position of this sub-division would have to be reconsidered. The question would then be, whether the June rate of expenditure, or anything like it, will be sustained during July and August. If any such probability is established, then the adoption of further measures will have to be considered. But the June estimate seems to me high, and until I see further I hesitate, under the circumstances of this sub-division, which are better than we first expected, to move in the matter.

4. In the Durbhanga Relief Sub-division, out of an allotment of 6 lakhs of maunds, 1 lakh is reported as expended up to 1st June. Here, also, the highest estimate which I have seen shews 1,95,000 maunds to be expended in June. If this shall be so, then half the allotment will have been expended by the 1st July. In that case the position would have to be reconsidered. But on consulting the Additional Commissioner (Mr. Metcalfe) and the Sub-divisional Officer (Mr. Macdonnell), I do not perceive that they feel any real anxiety for this sub-division. The June estimate seems high, and even if it be realised, still there would be much doubt whether any such rate of expenditure would be required during July and August. Until we can see further then, I am not prepared to move in the matter.

5. In the Madhobunee sub-division, after consulting the Additional Commissioner, Mr. Metcalfe, and the Sub-divisional Officer, Mr. Magrath, I find that they both think that the allotment of 9½ lakhs of maunds may prove insufficient. Mr. Magrath, indeed, asks for an additional allotment of 5 lakhs; but this is not supported by Mr. Metcalfe, and I am not prepared to go so far. The expenditure up to June is reported to be 2,27,000 maunds. The highest estimate which I have seen for June shews 3,45,000 maunds to be

expended during June. High as this estimate is, it may, I fear, be realized. If it be, then the position must be reconsidered on 1st July. There would, of course, remain the question whether anything like the June rate of expenditure will be required. Still, looking to the very large number of persons now receiving assistance, and to the exceptionally long period which, in this subdivision, must elapse before relief comes from the next harvest (December), I think that the allotment ought, in prudence, to be increased now by 2 lakhs. And in this view Mr. Metcalfe concurs, recommending, further, that the amount be taken from Seetamurree. Whether any further augmentation should be ordered can be reconsidered after the 1st July.

6. In Seetamurree, including the relief sub-divisions of Seetamurree and Poopree. the revised allotment stands at 8 lakhs of maunds. After consulting the Sub-divisional Officer, Mr. O'Reilly, I have authorised Mr. Metcalfe to transfer, as soon as he can, 2 lakhs of maunds from Seetamurree and Poopree to Madhobunee. As the two sub-divisions of Poopree and Madhobunee are contiguous, this can be managed before the heavy rains set in. But Mr. Metcalfe has no time to lose in carrying it out. I find that in Seetamurree and Poopree 1,00,000 maunds are reported as expended up to 1st of June. Mr. O'Reilly anticipates that 1½ lakhs will be expended during June. The expenditure, however, may fall off in July and August, and this part of the country will obtain some crops in September.

7. The summary of the foregoing may be thus stated—

Relief Sub-division.	Allotment.	Expenditure actual to 1st June.	Expenditure estimated during June.	Total to 1st July.	Remaining of allotment after 1st July.
	Mds.				
Hattee	8,00,000	90,000	1,50,000	2,40,000	5,60,000
Narya	6,50,000	1,00,000	2,07,000	3,07,000	3,43,000
Durbhanga	6,00,000	1,00,000	1,95,000	2,95,000	3,05,000
Madhobunee	11,50,000	2,27,000	3,45,000	5,72,000	5,78,000
Seetamurree and Poopree	6,00,000	1,00,000	1,50,000	2,50,000	3,50,000
TOTAL ...	38,00,000	6,17,000	10,47,000	16,64,000	21,36,000

8. In this estimate, too, no allowance has been made for wastage and losses, which are expected to be 10 per cent. If that be correct, then the 21,36,000 maunds at the end of the above summary would be practically reduced by 3,80,000 maunds.

9. I desire that a copy of this note be sent immediately to Mr. Metcalfe, with a request that as soon as possible after the 1st of July, he will submit a revised abstract precisely following the form laid down in this summary, supplying all corrections in the figures according to the best approximate information. The extreme importance of the reference will be so manifest to him that I need say no more now.

No. 92.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K. C. S. I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the maintenance of the reserve transport carriage during the rains, dated June 7, 1874.

Having had the advantage of discussing with Colonel Macgregor, at Durbhanga, on the 5th June, the best means of keeping the reserve Government carriage during the rainy season, I have to record the following remarks and instructions.

2. I should be much averse to any plan for scattering this very valuable resource in various and perhaps widely-separated localities; thus situated it might do some work in detail, but it would not be available for any important use. I prefer that it should be kept in a central position under Colonel Macgregor's own supervision, where it could be used with effect on emergency arising. Manifestly Durbhanga is the place for this purpose.

3. I therefore desire that *all* the Government reserve carriage be cantoned, as soon as its present work of transport is concluded, at or near Durbhanga. So many hundreds of Government carts and bullocks cannot of course be kept in Durbhanga itself. But Colonel Macgregor would fix villages in the immediate neighbourhood, where one or more detachments could be kept.

4. It is to be borne in mind that if any more supplies of grain have to be sent by land during the rains to any part east, or north-east of Tirhoot, Durbhanga is the basis of operations; and this carriage is the only means which we should have at immediate command for such a service. Colonel Macgregor will readily appreciate the possibly emergent character of the service, and will therefore keep his reserve strength of bullock-carriage in really effective order.

5. Nothing in these orders is to prevent Colonel Macgregor from detaching any part of the reserve carriage for a particular service, provided always that such temporary or partial diversion of the carriage does not impair the main purpose as above set forth. With this condition observed, it will be useful and economical to find employment for the carriage.

6. There remains the Government reserve strength of mules and ponies. The mules which constitute the best portion must be kept at or near Durbhanga, under Colonel Macgregor's own eye, with discretion to keep a part or the whole of them at Poosa, provided that he is satisfied that they can be brought over to Durbhanga, if wanted, at the shortest notice. This arrangement will be carried out as soon as the transport work in which they are now engaged shall be done.

7. As regards the ponies, I would leave discretion with Colonel Macgregor, to place the whole or a portion of them (on completion of their present transport work) at the various relief circles to be at the disposal of the circle officers for distributing the grain supplies among the villages.

8. But if he finds that many ponies are superior to the general average, then he can, if he sees fit, select such animals, and form them into a separate division to be treated in the same manner as that above laid down for the mules.

9. It is to be borne in mind that in event of grain having to be sent during the rains by land to East or North-east Tirhoot, and in event of sickness existing amongst the bullocks, the mules and ponies would form the last reserve immediately at command. Colonel Macgregor will therefore see the importance of preserving this large number of valuable animals in efficient condition.

10. The European and Native Officers now on duty with the reserve carriage of all sorts, including the Veterinary Surgeons, will be disposed of by Colonel Macgregor, and also housed in temporary bungalows, in reference to the foregoing instructions.

11. Any fodder obtained by Government from a distance, which may remain unexpended at the conclusion of the present transport service (of which I hope there will be some quantity), must be brought up under Colonel Macgregor's directions to Durbhanga, and be stacked or stored with reference to the foregoing instructions.

No. 93.

Memorandum of orders regarding the Sarun District passed by the Lieutenant-Governor at Hajeepore on June 7, 1874.

After meeting Mr. Drummond and discussing questions with him, the Lieutenant-Governor directs that—

(1). Advances of grain to ryots are to go on at the rate of 12 seers per rupee for fully husked rice, and at a proportionate rate for partially husked rice. The rate of 16 seers per rupee is probably too cheap in proportion, and it should be perhaps 14 seers per rupee. Under the rules, the settlement of the rate for other grains in proportion to the 12-seer rate for cleaned rice rests with the local officers.

(2). Sales of grain to laborers on works in Sarun need not be continued at 12 and 16 seers per rupee. Mr. Drummond is authorised

to fix the rates for sale of Government grain to laborers at such rates as may seem fair with reference to the local market rates. But the rate must not be cheaper for cleaned rice than 12 seers per rupee, and it must not be dearer than 10 seers of cleaned rice per rupee, inasmuch as any dearer rate would be verging on famine rates.

(3). Sales of grain to laborers on works in the Chupra and Manjhee thannahs, may be suspended until such time as Mr. Drummond can replenish his stores there, by transfer from the golahs elsewhere. This suspension is allowed because the small quantity of grain left in the stores of these thannahs is required to make advances to ryots.

(4). Mr. Drummond's estimate that three lakhs of maunds would be required for advances to ryots was accepted, but the Lieutenant-Governor impressed upon him that it was desirable to sift applications, and to grant advances only to those ryots who might be necessitous.

(5). Mr. Drummond was requested to use every effort and every proper persuasion to induce the laborers to go over to the Soane Canal works.

(6) The Lieutenant-Governor expressed his view that the laborers on many works should be induced to return to agricultural labor as soon as the rains began, and that, if necessary, works might to this end have to be closed.

(7). With reference to the emergent needs of the Sudder sub-division of Tirhoot, Mr. Drummond was directed to send 60,000 maunds out of the 80,000 stored (but unspent) on the Gunduck Embankment works. Mr. Worsley will be directed to arrange at once for receiving this amount and carrying it to the Sudder golahs; he must inform Mr. Drummond forthwith how much of this quantity should be sent to Lallgunge, Renah Ghât, and Sahebgunge. Mr. Worsley is authorised to make contracts on reasonable terms for lifting the grain from the river bank to his golahs.

No. 94.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K. C. S. I, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, regarding the services of Colonel Macgregor and the Military Relief Officers engaged under him, dated July 2, 1874.

Before leaving Durbhanga for the present, I desire to communicate to Colonel Macgregor the expression of my high appreciation of the skill, foresight, promptitude, and perseverance displayed by him in the discharge of his arduous and important duty in the Grain Transport Department of Tirhoot during the several months past.

I also beg that he will be good enough to communicate to the several officers who have done good service under him my cordial acknowledgments of the zeal, endurance, and practical ability which they have displayed.

Though the difficult service on which they are engaged has so far satisfactorily and successfully advanced, it is not yet ended; and I cannot say what further trials may still await us. But when the affair is finally concluded, I shall have the pleasure of officially bringing to the notice of the Government of India the meritorious work of every military officer who has served under the Government of Bengal on this occasion.

No. 95.

Minute by the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the consumption of grain in Tirhoot, dated Durbhanga, July 2, 1874.

With reference to my Minute of the 4th of June last, (see p. 367), giving an estimate of the consumption of Government grain in Tirhoot, I present a further estimate revised up to the 1st July.

It will be observed that the consumption shewn (subject to correction in detail hereafter) for the month of June, is considerably less than the anticipation of the local officers at the beginning of the month. For the first few days of June, the demand for Government grain was very brisk. It appeared that people, beyond the average monthly consumption, were laying in their stocks for the rainy months; and the number of relief laborers was very great, and seemed likely to continue so during the greater part of the month. Shortly afterwards the rains fell with abundance above the average of that particular season: the relief laborers at once decreased in numbers, and the sales to the public failed to continue at a rate beyond the average monthly consumption.

The opinion of local officers and of grain dealers generally seems to be, that the sales to the public will continue steady till the end of August, when some change will occur, the nature of which must depend on the crop which, about that date, would begin to be reaped.

The amount shewn as in store on the 1st of September is gross; that is, actual expenditure deducted for allotment.

But practically from that amount must be deducted wastage, losses, and premature sale of damaged stores, and the like.

After this deduction, the net amount will be considerably less than here shewn. With this abatement, however, I still consider that the amount is ample according to the best forecast we can now make, and provides a fair margin and safety against misfortunes not yet foreseen.

Relief Sub-division	Allotment as now settled on 1st July.	Actual expenditure to 1st June as per Lieutenant-Governor's Minute.	Expenditure of June.		Estimated expenditure of July and August.	Total of actuals and estimate up to 31st August.	Estimated remainder of allotment after the 31st August.
			As estimated in the Lieutenant-Governor's Minute.	Actuals as far as they are known, with estimate for last few days.			
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Hattee	8,00,000	90,000	1,50,000	1,30,000	2,48,000	4,68,000	3,32,000
Narya	6,50,000	1,00,000	2,07,000	1,00,000	1,50,000	3,50,000	3,00,000
Durbhanga	7,00,000	1,00,000	1,95,000	1,10,000	2,03,000	4,13,000	2,87,000
Madhobunee	11,50,000	2,27,000	3,45,000	1,50,000	3,00,000	6,77,000	4,73,000
Seetamurree and Poopree .	8,50,000	1,00,000	1,50,000	1,68,000	2,70,000	5,38,000	3,12,000
Total ...	(a)41,50,000	6,17,000	10,47,000	6,58,000	11,71,000	24,46,000	17,04,000
Mozufferpore	6,00,000	.		70,000	3,00,000	3,70,000	2,30,000
Tajpore	71,000	..	...	12,000	35,000	47,000	24,000
Hajeepore	53,000	..	...	2,000	30,000	32,000	21,000
Grand Total ...	48,74,000	6,17,000	10,47,000	7,42,000	15,36,000	28,95,000	19,79,000

(a) Difference of 3,50,000 maunds between the allotment for Eastern and North-Eastern Tirhoot as given in the Minute of the 4th June, and as now shewn, occurs thus —

	Mds
Reserve grain ordered to Durbhanga and Madhobunee	3,00,000
Grain allotted to, but not taken by Nepalese Government ...	50,000
Total ...	3,50,000

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